OWWA serves an estimated 200 Filipinos on first day. PAGE 2
Dentist's donation supports IRT Operation Wellness CNMI. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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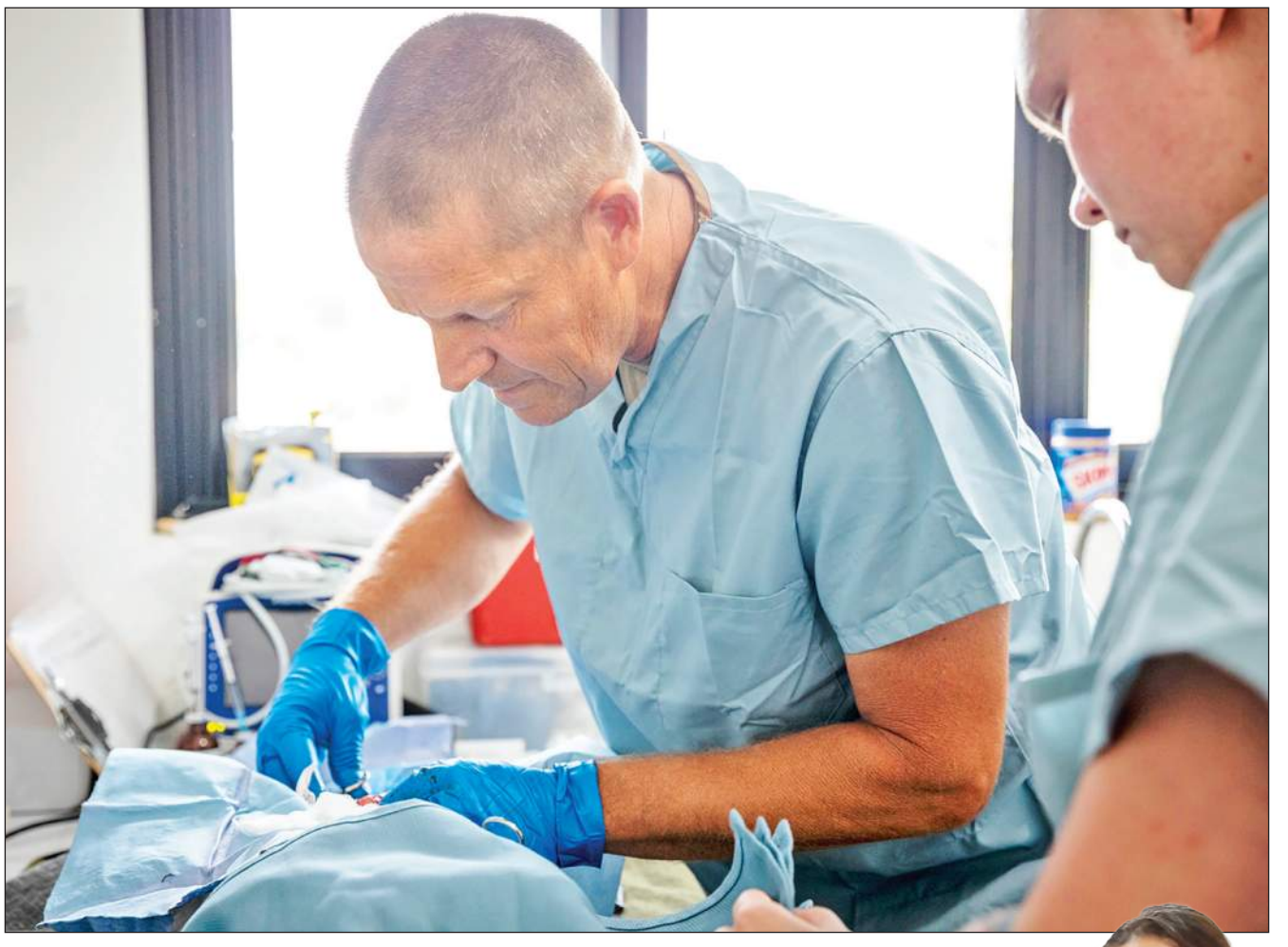
www.saipantribune.com WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2023 .facebook.com/saipantribune

Mendiola resigns from 2 Senate committees

Mendiola

NO-COST VET SERVICE
A pet undergoes a procedure during the Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI, which will have it final day on Saipan today, July 19, 2023. Operation Wellness CNMI, which was held from July 12 to July 20, 2023, provided medical and veterinary services at no cost to the public. RONALD BELL



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Noting that Tinian has no representation in two Senate committees chaired by Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Sen. Dennis C. Mendiola (R-Rota) resigned from both committees effective last Monday.

» Lack of Tinian representation prompts resignation

Mendiola relinquished his memberships in both the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee and the Judiciary, Government and Law Committee in a letter he handed to Babauta Monday.

Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she will be appointing Mendiola's

See MENDIOLA on Page 4

FEMA expands Mawar relief aid

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved the CNMI's request for additional Typhoon Mawar relief and funding assistance for permanent work for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

In addition to emergency protective measures, the additional categories of assistance now include permanent work activities that include restoration of roads, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities, parks,

See FEMA on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
73

Solomons leader hits back at criticism of growing security ties with China

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The leader of Solomon Islands on Monday hit back at criticism of his nation's deepening security ties with China, saying the United States and Australia had nothing to fear.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare made the remarks at a news conference in the

See SOLOMONS on Page 4

$25M seed money sought to get $289M worth of projects going

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some $289 million worth of Capital Infrastructure Project funds are in the pipeline and the CNMI government is planning to look for and set aside at least $25 million that can be tapped to get the projects going, while the government is still working on drawing

See $25M on PAGE 4

Norita

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Joeten Superstore gave away 200 of its Kirkland Signature 100% All Beef Franks last Saturday.
PAGE 11

NATION
Officers on Sunday shot and killed a man wanted in four weekend killings near Atlanta.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
It's official: Taylor Swift now has more No. 1 albums than any woman in history.
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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

OWWA serves an estimated 200 Filipinos on first day

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Volunteers pose with Overseas Workers Welfare Administration representatives Mercedes M. Ilano, Prescilla Pamela Flores, and Zara Zita P. Reyes, at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.vom
Correspondent

The first day of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's outreach in the CNMI last Monday saw the visiting team service a rough estimate of 200 individuals at the Sun Palace in Susupe.

Priscilla Pamela Flores, who is the chief of the Membership Processing Center and is one of the three Philippine-based OWWA representatives who are on island, believes they had a rough estimate of 200 some individuals who went to Sun Palace to either register or renew their OWWA memberships on their first day alone. In addition, there were also renewals and payments made.

The total numbers of applicants have not been finalized and that can't be done until the end date. Flores said she hopes to accomplish all they came to do this week before the operation end date on Saturday.

The last OWWA visit to Saipan saw an estimated 800 individuals who availed of their services. Since 2019, there has been no OWWA visit to Saipan, making the trip the first since the COVID-19 pandemic.

When asked how existing members may renew their membership when OWWA doesn't visit the CNMI, Flores said they do have a mobile app that also does membership renewals, but usually members renew their membership when on a trip to the Philippines.

Along with Flores, the other two representatives are OWWA IV Overseas Operations Coordination Service's Mercedes Ilano, and administrative assistant III Zara Zita Reyes from the Fund and Investment Management Office.

While representatives are here, OWWA will be offering, a chance for interested individuals to become OWWA members—so they could avail of the many benefits that come with it—and will also be allowing existing members to renew their membership. Service operation hours continue this week until July 22, 2023, from 8:30am to 5pm.

DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM, BUDGET ISSUE

Confirmation hearing for 3 appointees canceled

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) canceled the scheduled confirmation hearing yesterday for Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to three appointees due to a lack of quorum.

The Senate Executive Appointments Governmental Investigations Committee was supposed to hold a confirmation hearing yesterday for Valerie M. Atalig, Roland Johnson, and Antonio B. Cabrera.

Atalig was nominated to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, representing Rota, while Johnson was nominated to server as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board, representing Saipan and Northern Islands. Cabrera was appointed to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board, representing Saipan and Northern Islands.

Babauta, who chairs the committee, also told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the other reason of the cancelation is to concentrate on the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee meetings on the House of Representatives concurrent resolution.

Aside from Babauta, the only committee member available yesterday was Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota). The other member, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is on leave for personal medical reasons.

Dentist's donation supports IRT Operation Wellness CNMI

By LT. COL. KRISTIN PORTER
807th Medical Command Deployment SUPPORT

Saipan dentist Dr. Nelson Krum of Paradise Dental Spa donated dental supplies to the Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI mission on Jul. 17, 2023.

The Saipan Rotary Group had sent a notice to local dentists that there were items in the IRT's dental service that were in short supply. Krum had his office manager check, and at the time they didn't have enough supplies to release any.

Maj. Lucinda Young, a dentist from the 143rd Dental Co., Aurora, Co., assigned to the IRT mission, made a call to Krum's practice on Monday morning and was told to come by.

"When I called, they said they only had a few things. When I showed up, he went back into the supply and got even more than we asked for," said Young.

Young walked out with burs, high-speed suction tips, and syringes of phosphoric acid etch needed for fillings.

"When they came by today, I said, 'Aww to hell with it, even if we run out,' so… hopefully [it's] enough to get them by until Wednesday," Krum said.

The donations "are significant to the mission. [We] can continue doing tooth fillings for the remainder of our time here. …It allows us to provide more care to people," said Young.

The people of CNMI are unable to use Medicaid to seek dental care until October so the IRT dentists "are the only ones providing care to a lot of these people…which is huge," said Krum.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan dentist Dr. Nelson Krum of Paradise Dental Spa donated dental supplies to support the Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI mission on Jul. 17, 2023. Krum is shown here with Maj. Lucinda Young, a dentist assigned to the IRT mission, as she picks up the donation.

Managing the stress of parenting

By LT. COL. KRISTIN PORTER
807th Medical Command Deployment SUPPORT

807TH MEDICAL COMMAND DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT
Maj. Caleb Ra, a clinical social worker with the 1835th Med. Det. (COSC), from Aurora, Co., and Maj. Bradley Smith, a psychiatric nurse practitioner with the 467th Med. Det. Combat Operational Stress Control (COSC), from Madison, Wis., pose with a parenting class at the Green Meadow School on Saipan during Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI Behavioral Health Team on July 15, 2023. Ra and Smith, members of the mission's Behavioral Health Team discussed how to deal with the stress of parenting.

Members of the Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI Behavioral Health Team met with a parenting class at the Green Meadow School in Saipan on July 15, 2023.

Marie Leightley, from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center, is working as a community liaison to the behavioral health team and is a member of the parenting class.

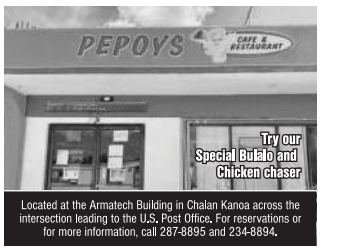
She invited Maj. Bradley Smith, a psychiatric nurse practitioner with the 467th Med. Det. Combat Operational Stress Control, from Madison, Wis., and Maj. Caleb Ra, a clinical social worker with the 1835th Med. Det., from Aurora, Co., to discuss the perceptions of being a parent and how to deal with the stress of parenting.

Behavioral health services to the community during the IRT mission include outreach, prevention, education, and "helping individuals during stressful times. Being a parent can be stressful, so we want to help parents develop healthy coping skills and healthy relationships with their children," said Smith. "We are modeling what the COSC would do in a deployed setting. …We have a clinic environment… where we help soldiers with coping skills, stress management. …You can apply those same principles to the civilian population. And likewise, we have outreach and prevention efforts that we would do in a deployed setting. We would go out to where people are,…meeting them and understanding what their needs are, so you can translate that directly to the civilian population."

Last Monday, three members of the COSC team presented to children ages 5-12 at a summer camp hosted by the CNMI Division of Youth Services, focusing on healthy emotions, the natural emotions of being a child, and techniques for relationship building with parents and friends.

Yesterday, the team visited the Transitional Living Center and met individuals with severe mental illness and provided mental health education on topics such as healthy sleep habits and stress management.

Behavioral health teams are also conducting outreach events with the communities on Tinian and Rota.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Chicken chaser
Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 287-8895 and 234-8894.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Technical Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

Job Duties
Oversee and supervise overall daily technical operations of the company; Develop and implement strategic plans for technical operation based on the company's customer base; Assess and analyze budgets and on-going technical projects to find ways to minimize expenses and optimize profits; Oversee and direct technical and mechanical issues from conception to completion; Oversee all onsite and offsite mechanical matters to monitor compliance with safety regulations; Set strategic plan for productivity and sales targets and ensure the company meets such targets

Requirements
Bachelor's Degree; Major(s) and/or field(s) of study in Mechanical Engineering.

Please send a resume and transcript to
BE TO CORPORATION, Attn: Da Young CHUNG at P.O. Box 7670 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

Faith, Hope and KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) FULL-TIME SHELTER WORKER

Interested applicant can email info@karidat.org to receive a position description and a fillable application form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of a valid CNMI Driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023 AT 4:00 PM.

Department of Veterans Affairs
PACT Act Claims Clinic

Hosted by

Honolulu Veterans Affairs Regional Office

July 20, 2023
12pm to 5pm

VA Benefits Counselors will be available to answer non-medical benefits questions and assist with the claim process. Information regarding the PACT Act that expands VA benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances will also be available.

WHERE: *Hyatt Regency Saipan*
Giovanni's Restaurant
873 Micro Beach Road Garapan
Saipan 96950

WHEN: *July 20, 2023 – 12pm to 5pm*

No registration is required

Walk-In Only. Customers Seen on a First Come - First Served Basis

For additional information related to the PACT Act visit VA.gov/PACT

For questions regarding the PACT Claims Clinic please contact
Willie Peterson, (670) 664-2650 or Aiko Shibuya at (808) 433-0501

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Sagana defense motions for acquittal; judge reserves decision

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the ongoing jury trial of Bonifacio "Boni" Sagana, who faces a driver's license fraud charge in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, his lawyer made a motion for acquittal yesterday, but District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona reserved her decision on the motion and continued the trial.

Defense counsel Richard Miller made the motion to acquit Sagana soon after the prosecutor, assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Flores Jr., rested his case yesterday afternoon in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Miller said the prosecution has not produced enough evidence for the jury to consider, both from the facts of the case and from the prosecutors' witnesses. He said that the jury could not reasonably find the elements of interstate commerce problem is satisfied—that the production of the driver's license is in or affects interstate commerce.

Manglona invoked Rule 29-B in reserving her decision on the motion.

Sagana is on trial for and has pleaded not guilty to the charge of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce an identification document—a CNMI driver's license. The three elements in the case against Sagana are 1: conspiring to knowingly produce an identification document, 2: without lawful authority, and 3: that the production of that document was in or affected interstate commerce.

In arguing that the case violates the precepts of interstate commerce, Flores argued that the license made for Bernadita Zata, the vehicle bought and used by Zata, and gasoline paid for by Zata are all manufactured outside of the CNMI.

"The whole point of manufacturing is to participate in an economy and participate in commerce. Things are manufactured for the purpose of commerce outside of the CNMI and brought here. It is a simple concept and the government has met its burden," he said.

Miller said these arguments are not sufficient and that the issue is whether the license itself affected interstate commerce. "There's no testimony that there's an intention to travel, to cross interstate lines, to cross from Saipan to elsewhere, using this driver's license," said Miller.

He said there is testimony that Zata was out of status in the first place, so she's not going to be able to travel anyway, but that "she had no intention whatsoever to travel on it. She wanted the driver's license because she wanted a driver's license within the CNMI—not with any intention to go anywhere else," he said. "So we submit to the court that there is no sufficient evidence in front of the jury to find that this conspiracy—if it did happen, if it did take place, was in, or affected interstate commerce."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SOLOMONS

From page 1

capital Honiara after returning from a visit to China, where he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other top officials.

Sogavare said that while in China, he signed nine agreements and memorandums, including a police cooperation plan.

He said the plan "enhances cooperation on law enforcement and security matters with a commitment by China to provide support as needed" to strengthen the capacity of police law enforcement in the Pacific nation.

The new agreements come after the Solomon Islands signed a security pact with China last year, raising fears of a military buildup in the region. The U.S. has countered with diplomatic moves of its own, including opening an embassy in the Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands switched allegiance from the self-ruled island of Taiwan to Beijing in 2019, threatening the close ties with the U.S. that date to World War II.

Both the U.S. and Australia have raised concerns about the secrecy of the new police plan.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told reporters she had asked about the plan when she met with China's top diplomat Wang Yi in Jakarta last week.

Wong said Australia wants more transparency and takes the view that "security is best provided for within the Pacific family."

At the news conference, Sogavare accused the U.S. and Australia of being "un-neighborly" by criticizing the police plan.

"This is nothing but interference by foreign states into the internal affairs of Solomon Islands," Sogavare said.

He said China's plan to help the police complement-ed existing Australian and New Zealand police programs in his nation.

"Australia and the United States should not fear China's police support to Solomon Islands," Sogavare said.

Home to 700,000 people and lying about 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of Australia, Solomon Islands has been one of China's biggest successes in a campaign to expand its presence in the South Pacific.

China's Foreign Ministry earlier said that Sogavare's visit to Beijing would "inject new momentum" into relations and "deepen mutual political trust."

$25M

From page 1

down the funds.

That's the plan right now, according to Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita, during the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's hearing on the government's fiscal year 2024 budget Friday, adding that the CIP financing is being eyed as one of the administration's plans to generate revenue.

With the $25 million "seed money," Norita said this will be some sort of a revolving fund, and the construction contractors and all the businesses that are helping in those projects will start to generate revenue and pay taxes.

She said they envision that this seed money would help get these vendors paid immediately or on time, while the Executive Branch processes these drawdowns and then immediately replenish the seed money account.

"This is just one way that we can jumpstart these projects to get moving," she said.

The major CIP projects that are in the pipeline are funded by the Economic Development Administration, $108 million; Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation, $16 million; Federal Emergency Management Agency, $70 million; Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment, $81 million; and Capital Projects Fund, $14 million.

Under the $107.6-million EDA projects, she said the Northern Marianas College is about to break ground on the NMC Student Center. Work has already been done and the designs for their CREES facility and NMC Workforce Training Center are now ready.

Norita said the Oleai Sports Complex is seeing progress with their design, while the Department of Finance Economic Resiliency Center's design is moving up to 60%.

"We also see the Garapan Revitalization Project. So again, these are just many of the projects that are in progress," she said, adding that this is one of the factors why the Business Gross Revenue could increase if they facilitate these projects and get them moving.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) described the proposed "seed money" as a brilliant idea as that there's a lot of private companies that are still owed by the government, but also expressed concern that it may be depleted at once. "Who knows, if we start with this revolving fund, maybe it be depleted in a month," the senator said.

Norita agreed that it is a great idea to jumpstart the projects, but stated that the seed money is not going to be intended to replace the projects' original funding.

"It is intended to facilitate and expedite the payment to the contractors so they can pay based on the revenues that they actually generate and then…it puts the work on the Executive Branch to ensure that we get the drawdowns in," she said.

Usually the drawdown should take no more than two weeks, Norita said, and so the idea for the seed money account is that it will be replenished quickly in just two weeks.

When asked how much the government owes vendors, Norita said she does not have the exact numbers today because, in the case of large road projects, the invoices don't get entered to be paid unless that it gets all the required signatures and signs-offs, and before they can even submit to the grantors for a drawdown.

"So that whole process takes time while the contractor already basically submitted their invoice," she said.

For large CIP projects, that process of approving the invoice takes a longer time.

At a recent House of Representatives session, Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) urged House members to explore, with the approval of the administration and Marianas Public Land Trust, setting aside seed money so that interest earned on those investment under MPLT can be designated to address the medical referral system permanently.

At the same session, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) disclosed that one of the plans that's being laid out by the administration right now is to leverage a line of credit, whether it be from other institutions outside of the CNMI, bonds or others.

Attao said MPLT is definitely one of the entities that they're looking at, not just to borrow money but actually to have a line of credit.

He said a lot of these CIP projects won't move forward without money upfront for the payment of these vendors for a drawdown.

MENDIOLA

From page 1

replacement this week.

In his letter to Babauta, Mendiola said the primary reason behind his decision to resign is to advocate for equal representation among the senatorial districts within the CNMI.

"I firmly believe that each district deserves fair and proportional representation to ensure that all voices are heard and that decisions made reflect the diverse needs and perspectives of our constituents," he said.

The other members of the committees are Sens. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

While this arrangement is not inherently unjust, Mendiola said he strongly feels that Tinian, as an integral part of the Commonwealth, should also have a dedicated member in these committees. By doing so, he said, the Senate can foster a greater sense of trust, inclusion, and fairness among the three senatorial districts, thereby strengthening the unity and cohesion of the islands.

The Rota senator said that, by allowing a member of the Tinian delegation to join the committees, they can promote a more balanced representation, where all districts have an equal opportunity to contribute to the legislative process.

"This step will not only address the current disparity but also enhance the integrity and credibility of our committees and the decisions made therein," Mendiola said.

FEMA

From page 1

and other facilities.

Early last month, U.S. President Joe Biden approved the CNMI's request for a presidential major disaster declaration, which supported emergency protective measures and other direct federal assistance to support the Commonwealth's disaster response and recovery efforts following Typhoon Mawar.

The notice of major disaster declaration was amended on July 10, 2023 to specifically include the following:

■ The island of Rota for debris removal and permanent work activities that include restoration of roads, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities, parks, and other facilities. Rota was earlier designated for emergency protective measures in the original disaster declaration, including direct federal assistance under the Public Assistance program.

■ The islands of Saipan and Tinian for emergency protective measures and permanent work activities that include restoration of roads, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities, parks, and other facilities, including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program.

■ All areas within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

"We are thankful for FEMA's inclusion of other categories of assistance that are available to agencies and organizations on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian," said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "The funding assistance helps to assure additional resources are earmarked to help prepare for and recover from future storms."

Typhoon Mawar went through the Marianas on May 24 and primarily affected Guam and Rota.

The additional assistance includes hazard mitigation efforts to help the CNMI reduce the risk and potential impact of future storms and other natural disasters.

"The hazard mitigation assistance is especially helpful given the anticipated frequency of storms that have been forecasted by the National Weather Service for our islands," Palacios added.

FEMA also approved direct federal assistance through the Public Assistance Program, which provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

Through the Public Assistance Program, assistance is provided for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and specific facilities of certain PNP organizations. The PA Program also encourages the protection of these damaged facilities from future incidents by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures.

The CNMI Public Assistance office under the CNMI Office of the Governor is responsible for administering this reimbursement grant. Organizations looking to see if they are eligible for this grant are asked to contact the Public Assistance Office at (670) 664-2417 or email info@pa.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Tinian's Borja asked for docs on ARPA, revolving funds balances

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee has asked Tinian Municipal Council treasurer Barbara Borja to provide documents pertaining to current fund balances for all Tinian fund accounts such as from the American Rescue Plan Act and revolving funds.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the committee, gave Borja until July 24, 2023, to submit the requested records.

The committee members approved Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) motion to issue a "1308-1309" letter request for documents at a meeting last Monday. This refers to a section of the CNMI Code pertaining to "cooperation of government officers and employees" requiring them to "cooperate with any investigating committee and with its representatives and furnish to it or to its representatives such information as may be called for in connection with the research activities of the committee."

Letter 1309 refers to a section of the Commonwealth Code that gives the committee authority to obtain evidence or information by any lawful means.

At the start of the meeting, Yumul said the Senate is still awaiting the response of the Department of Finance with regards to bond payments. He recommended issuing a letter 1308 since they need the information before his committee can make any changes to the government's fiscal year 2024 budget and that they haven't gotten any information or straight answers from the Tinian Municipal Council treasurer and Finance.

Yumul said the 1308 letter is to request documents so they can move forward with the budget hearing and finalize the fiscal year 2024 budget.

Attao said they should proceed with the 1308 letter as this is something that they actually requested during the conference committee for the revised budget for 2023 and they still didn't get that information even then.

Attao said they should move with 1308 letter and should the Tinian treasurer not provide the committee the information, they should proceed with the issuance of a 1301 letter to get those documents so that they can work on the budget with real numbers that are from external sources. Letter 1301 vests subpoena powers on the committee.

In his 1308-1309 letter on Monday, Yumul requested Borja to submit current balances of the municipality's accounts and sources from the American Rescue Plan Act, revolving accounts, local sources, professional services, tribunal, any other accounts to which the municipality has access or expenditure authority from January 2021 to the present.

Yumul requested any documents in Borja's possession or custody related to the tracking, accounting, receipt, expenditure, or transaction of funds and accounts from January 2021 to the present, pertaining to those accounts and sources.

He asked for all documents, records, and contracts that show that ARPA funds (Capital Improvement Project or otherwise), that have been received by the Municipality of Tinian and have been encumbered and are legally unavailable to fund other services or personnel.

The chair also requested for current employee listing and position titles for all municipal employees funded by "tribunal" funds or funds sourced by ARPA Section 603(b)(3).

USDA Farm and Food Worker Relief Grant is now accepting applications

UFW Foundation is accepting applications for the USDA Farm and Food Worker Relief Grant Program. The FFWR Program is a program that would allow UFW Foundation to provide a one-time payment of $600 to farmworkers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the FFWR Program, relief payments will be available to eligible frontline workers in farming activities, meatpacking, and grocery store work during the period extending from Jan. 27, 2020, until the emergency period has been declared over. Eligibility requirements include identity and employment verification, and immigration status is not a factor. There is no cost to apply for the FFWR program.

"Farm workers were essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic who were left out of various relief efforts, yet were the most affected by the pandemic, both financially and physically." said UFW Foundation CEO Diana Tellefson Torres. "But now the UFW Foundation is in a unique position to offer relief to families who are still feeling the economic burden exacerbated by the pandemic. We look forward to working with USDA and various community groups throughout the United States in distributing these funds. It's the least we can do for the people who kept us fed during the pandemic."

UFW Foundation has been advocating for farm worker relief since the pandemic started, making it known that even though farm workers are essential workers, they haven't been treated as such. Unlike other workers, farm workers do not qualify for overtime benefits, typically receive low wages, and experience poor working conditions.

For more information on eligibility requirements and other information, we encourage potential applicants to visit our website at https://www.ufwfoundation.org/ffwr. Applicants can sign up for the program with the UFW Foundation at (877) 881-8281. ***(PR)***

Legislative updates at SHRM meeting

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will host a general membership meeting on Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort's Sunflower Ballroom, from 11:30am to 1pmM. Doors will open at 11am.

Michael Pangelinan, who is a partner at Calvo, Fisher, & Jacob, LLP; and Jose Mafnas Jr., corporate counsel at Triple J Enterprises Inc., will discuss legislative updates regarding employment related matters and how it affects the CNMI.

The following fees apply: $30 for SHRM member; $35 for future-members.

This meeting will include lunch. Seating is limited.

One person per one entry. One representative may submit multiple entries for each participant under their company.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters.

The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF DCRM PUBLIC HEARING

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL DORMITORIES & ONE RECREATIONAL BUILDING PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. TMS-2022-035-A1 – The Triple J Saipan, Inc. is proposing to construct two additional dormitory buildings and one recreational building on Lot Nos. 023 t 21 and 023 T 22 in Marpo Heights, Tinian.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 5:00PM, at the San Jose Elementary School Cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian.**

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Triple J Tinian Dormitory and Recreational Buildings Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB23-DPL/ TIN-42300082-CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 11, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS 'E' VEHICLE FOR TINIAN DISTRICT OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS, MRS. TERESITA A. SANTOS VIA EMAIL AT dpl@dpl.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ TERESITA A. SANTOS
SECRETARY, DPL

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/18/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  - CNMI Operation Wellness Mission 2023

VII. Director's Report
  - Notice and Certification for Adoption on Proposed Amendments to the Regulations for:
    1. Psychology
    2. Dentists
    3. Telehealth and Telemedicine
  - Update with Proposed Regulations for Speech Pathology and Audiology
  - Updates with the Law Revision Commission Regarding HCPLB Adopted Proposed Regulations
  - Practice Monitoring Report on Case #20-0001

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature

X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Application

XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

SHS thanks community's support of spay-and-neuter clinic

Saipan Humane Society wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to the community for the outstanding support and generous sponsorships during the recent spay and neuter clinic from May 26 to June 30. This initiative was aimed at addressing the critical issue of dog and cat overpopulation on Saipan.

SHS extends their appreciation to the community for patience and understanding during some challenges such as the necessary rescheduling caused by Typhoon Mawar, along with challenges caused by limited supplies and funding. Despite these obstacles, the SHS volunteers and the Saipan Dog Control Program remained steadfast in their commitment to the helping animals of Saipan.

SHS would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following sponsors:

■ The Lynn Raulerson Trust for their generous sponsorship, which covered the costs of critical surgical equipment and medications in memory of Dr. Lynn Raulerson, a University of Guam biology professor who was passionate about helping the underserved animals of the Marianas. The Lynn Raulerson Trust was also responsible for funding the low-cost spay/neuter clinic at Guam Animals In Need. The generosity if Dr. Raulerson is truly leaving a lasting legacy for animals throughout the region.

■ The Saipan Mayor's Office for allowing our use of their shelter facility in collaboration with their Dog Control Program staff. The Dog Control Program staff worked tirelessly with cleaning, crowd control, check-in procedures, and pre-surgery preparations to ensure the clinic's success.

■ Saipan Vegas Resort for providing accommodation for our visiting volunteer veterinarian for an extended period of time. With limited funding, we cannot afford accommodation for our visiting vets, yet it is critical that they have a place to stay while volunteering their services.

■ Atkins Kroll Toyota, for their sponsorship of a rental car for our visiting veterinarian for the duration of her visit, allowing her the freedom to explore the island and travel to and from clinic. Atkins Kroll also provided a generous financial sponsorship that was used to support the low costs of surgery during this clinic.

■ Brabu Pharmacy for their donation of a new microscope, along with other diagnostic equipment such as a pet glucometer, urine test strips, and other clinic supplies that will increase the ability to provide diagnostics and evidence-based care.

■ Gold's Gym, for their sponsorship of a gym memberships for our volunteer veterinarians to keep them happy and healthy during their visits.

■ The Shack, Godfather's, OMG Grill, Julie's Catering, Ina's Kitchen, American Pizza Bar & Grille, Lucky Bill, and Spicy Thai: We express our deepest gratitude to these local restaurants for their kind sponsorship of delicious lunches provided during the clinic for our volunteers.

■ iShop and I Heart Saipan for their sponsorship of the veterinarian's flight from Guam to Saipan, along with a thoughtful gift basket for our team.

Finally, we would like to thank Lisa Meador-Schoppa Animal Travel Agent for sponsoring the veterinarian's flight from Los Angeles to Guam on her private pet charter plane. Also, Saipan Humane Society would not be possible without the mentorship and support of Guam Animals In Need, Guam's only animal shelter established in 1989 and low-cost spay/neuter clinic.

The Saipan Humane Society is grateful to all individuals and businesses who supported and sponsored our spay and neuter clinic. With their assistance, we were able to provide vital veterinary care to numerous animals, making a positive impact on our community's overall welfare.

SHS looks forward to bringing veterinarians to conduct spay/neuter clinics in the very near future, and welcome all to follow our social media pages for updates. When no veterinarian is present, SHS will continue to offer basic medical services such as Bravecto, deworming, and health consultations in partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Shelter. ***(PR)***

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Inc.
Non-Profit Organization

Request For Proposal

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 28, 2023
TIME: 5:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL"

The Northern Marianas Protections & Advocacy Systems, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with a disability. NMPASI is seeking an office space lease for three (3) years with the option to renew. The office space rental must include the following specifications:

1. Office space must be at least 2,500 square feet
2. Office space must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines that allow for accessibility for our community
3. Office space must include a reasonable and accessible parking area
4. Office space rental must include a reliable on call repair and maintenance services
5. Office space rental must include a dependable office security system with readily available service and system maintenance.
6. **Please detail specifications for items 1-5 in proposal**

Direct inquires relating to the proposal to the Executive Director of NMPASI, Mr. Gregory Borja via email at gborja@nmpasi.org

Proposals are to be submitted to NMPASI office in Gualo Rai, no later than the above date and time.

/s/
Gregory Borja
Executive Director

/s/
Konrad Siewierski
Chairman, Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-025

AGAG BOOSTER PUMP AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEM UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of upgrading the existing Agag Booster Pump Station (AG); rehabilitation of existing Agag concrete sump tank, yard piping, aboveground flowmeter and valve station with concrete pad, and all other appurtenances at the Agag site; renovation of the existing chlorine and electrical building; installation of a new booster pump (triplex system); construction of a new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting at the Agag site; and site improvements and grading. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 185 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-025, Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) August 2, 2023,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 17, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician via address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

JB Charleston airmen help search-and-rescue on Rota

By STAFF SGT. BAILEE DARBASIE
Joint Base Charleston Public Affairs

Four Joint Base Charleston airmen were involved in a successful search-and-rescue operation last July 10 off the coast of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

French, Canadian and U.S. Forces participating in Mobility Guardian 2023 were conducting exercise operations when a real-world distress signal came through, prompting their assistance to save the lives of 11 civilians onboard a disabled fishing vessel adrift in dangerous waters.

"Due to the lack of GPS onboard and the inability to use a cell phone to acquire a GPS position, the situation became critical," said Chief Warrant Officer Sara Muir, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia, Sector Guam, in a press release. "A French Air and Space Force A400M Atlas military transport aircraft and crew were the first aircrew to respond, locating the vessel after running a search pattern."

As part of MG23's initiative to strengthen interoperability, allied forces have integrated crews during aerial missions throughout the exercise. The A400M Atlas crew included Team Charleston's Maj. Emily Smith from the 628th Force Support Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Michael Cossaboom, Staff Sgt. Taylor Crul and Senior Airman Anthony Walker from the 1st Combat Camera Squadron.

The dark ocean and starry night made it difficult for crew members to locate the vessel.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANTHONY WALKER

Staff Sgt. Taylor Crul, 1st Combat Camera aerial combat photographer, documents a search-and-rescue operation while taking part in Mobility Guardian 2023 off the coast of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, July 10, 2023.

"We were searching at 1,000 feet, conducting a snaking pattern, and everyone on the aircraft was looking out of some sort of window or door," Smith said. "We knew how serious the situation was, and we knew we needed to do what we could to help."

Smith stood on the flight deck, scanning the water without night vision binoculars when she noticed a faint light on the ocean's surface. After alerting the pilots, they immediately maneuvered the aircraft to gain visuals of the location she pointed out.

With quick thinking, they decided to circle the suspected boat while flashing their landing gear lights to get their attention. The A400M pilots called back to the U.S. Coast Guard, asking if the vessel could see their flashing lights circling around them.

The entire A400M crew waited in suspense for the response on whether or not they had finally located the distressed boat.

"When they said 'yes' we all started cheering," Smith said. "The sense of relief was phenomenal. We found them."

Utilizing their night vision capabilities and safety harnesses to locate the boat through open parachute doors, the A400M crew remained on scene maintaining visual contact with the disabled vessel while working alongside the USCG and Department of Public Safety.

Meanwhile, Cossaboom, Crul and Walker captured vital imagery of the successful SAR mission.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work alongside our allies as they saved lives," Crul said. "I feel honored that I was a part of the operation and was able to support it through documentation."

The crew maintained visual contact with the troubled vessel for more than five hours as the sea conditions continued to decline. Eventually, a Royal Canadian Air Force CC-130J Super Hercules aircraft and crew were dispatched to replace the French A400M as it began to run out of fuel.

As the RCAF crew held sight of the boat, a U.S. Navy MH-60 Nighthawk helicopter crew launched to aid the rescue efforts. Arriving at 1am, the crew immediately began hoisting the passengers from the vessel to safety, marking the end of the mission.

"Smith was able to spot the vessel and alert the pilots, while our Combat Camera team was able to capture everything in real time, truly making this a multinational team effort to save souls," said Col. Carlos Berdecia, 437th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. "This goes to show the agility and flexibility of our team when we work with our Allies and partners, promoting true interoperability."

According to a USCG press release, nine of the 11 people rescued are reportedly citizens of the People's Republic of China.

"Aircraft crews play a crucial role in our efforts to save lives in challenging maritime situations," said Capt. Nick Simmons, USCG Forces Micronesia, Sector Guam, commander. "Using aerial assets, combined with our local partnerships, ensures a swift and effective response to distress calls, ultimately increasing the chances of a successful rescue."

Future CPA obtains national scholarship; thanks guidance of mom, UOG mentors

Jamabeva "Jamie" Masangkay, a University of Guam graduate student, has been selected as one of 195 in the nation to receive the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Foundation Scholarship for Future CPAs this year.

Masangkay

After graduating from UOG in May 2022, with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, Masangkay enrolled in the new Master of Accountancy Program at the university.

She also holds a full-time job as a tax accountant with the Guam office of global accounting firm Ernst & Young.

The $5,000 scholarship is awarded each year by the foundation for the largest organization of certified public accountants in the United States, with more than 428,000 members in 130 countries.

Masangkay thanks her mother, Jacqueline Masangkay, a math/science teacher at Simon Sanchez High School, for her guidance. "Her dedication to our family and her work ethic has shaped the person I am today," Jamie Masangkay said. "She taught me the importance of perseverance and the value of hard work in pursuing my goals."

She also is grateful to her UOG mentors, Martha Suez-Sales, assistant professor of accounting and program chair for the Master of Accountancy Program at UOG; and Doreen Crisostomo-Muña, professor of accounting.

"Dr. Suez-Sales and Dr. Crisostomo-Muna are two of the most notable pillars of the accounting community here at the University of Guam. Both of them have inspired many of their students and propelled me into where I am now in my career as a public accountant," Jamie Masangkay said.

'Sense of home and community'

"Apart from the fact that it is significantly less expensive to attend the University of Guam for higher education, UOG has an irreplicable sense of home and community, full of people who yearn for a bigger future for themselves and for their island home," Jamie Masangkay said. "Being surrounded with such a warm and supportive environment continues to be a key element in helping me stay motivated during my academic career."

To learn more about Jamie Masangkay's journey, read more at url.uog.edu/ImT-m5V ***(UOG)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB No.: 42300080

SUBMISSION DATE: August 04, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Groundwater, Leachate and Gas Testing at the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 05, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 21, 2023,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 27, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI). NMPASI is a non-profit, private corporation whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.

The Board of Directors is comprised of eleven volunteer members who serve four-year terms. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote NMPASI mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. The interested individual must be a person with a disability; knowledgeable about the needs of people with disabilities; a parent/guardian of a person with a disability; or an immediate relative of a person with a mentally impairing disability. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular quarterly meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for NMPASI's programs;
- developing and insuring adherence to policies and procedures that establish the purposes, overall programmatic directions and structure of the organization;
- electing officers of the board in accordance with the by-laws;
- approving new members and membership requirements;
- approving, repealing, altering and/or amending by-laws;
- reviewing, approving, amending annual budgets;
- recruiting, hiring, evaluating, and if deemed necessary, terminating and removing the Executive Director or the organization in accordance with established policies and procedures;
- reviewing and approving annual Statement of Goals and Priorities and other reports including, but not limited to regular and special meeting minutes of the Board;
- approving contracts and other instruments of a contractual nature in accordance with established policies and procedures; and
- carrying out all other duties in furtherance of the purposes in accordance with established policies and procedures

Interested persons shall submit a written letter addressed to the Board Secretary, Sherry Pangelinan, and to the Executive Director, Greg Borja, in person at the NMPASI office in Gualo Rai or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

Deadline for submission: no later than **Friday, July 28, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Greg Borja at (670) 235-7273 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org with any questions and/or concerns.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

It's not the heat, it's the stupidity: the latest wake-up call on climate change

In the South and Southwest, and most intensely from Southern California to South Florida, a dangerous heat wave has gripped the nation, with 104 million Americans under a heat warning advisory. Records are being broken right and left: The first full week of July was recorded as the Earth's hottest on record, and it followed the hottest June on record. Texas has been hit especially hard, with cities recording high temperatures of 110 degrees or more. This is not some minor inconvenience, but a dangerous and deadly circumstance, with hundreds of people sick and a dozen dying in the Lone Star State from heat-related causes this summer. On Thursday, the Maryland Department of Health also reported its first heat-related casualty of the summer: a 52-year-old man in Cecil County.

Scientists point to any number of factors behind the scorching temperatures, including the El Nino effect, in which above-average Pacific Ocean temperatures spread and influence global weather patterns, including those heat domes where a high-pressure "lid" is created by atmospheric air currents trapping heat. But reinforcing all of this is the one underlying cause: Greenhouse gas emissions, most the result of burning fossil fuels and related human-made activities, are making the planet hotter.

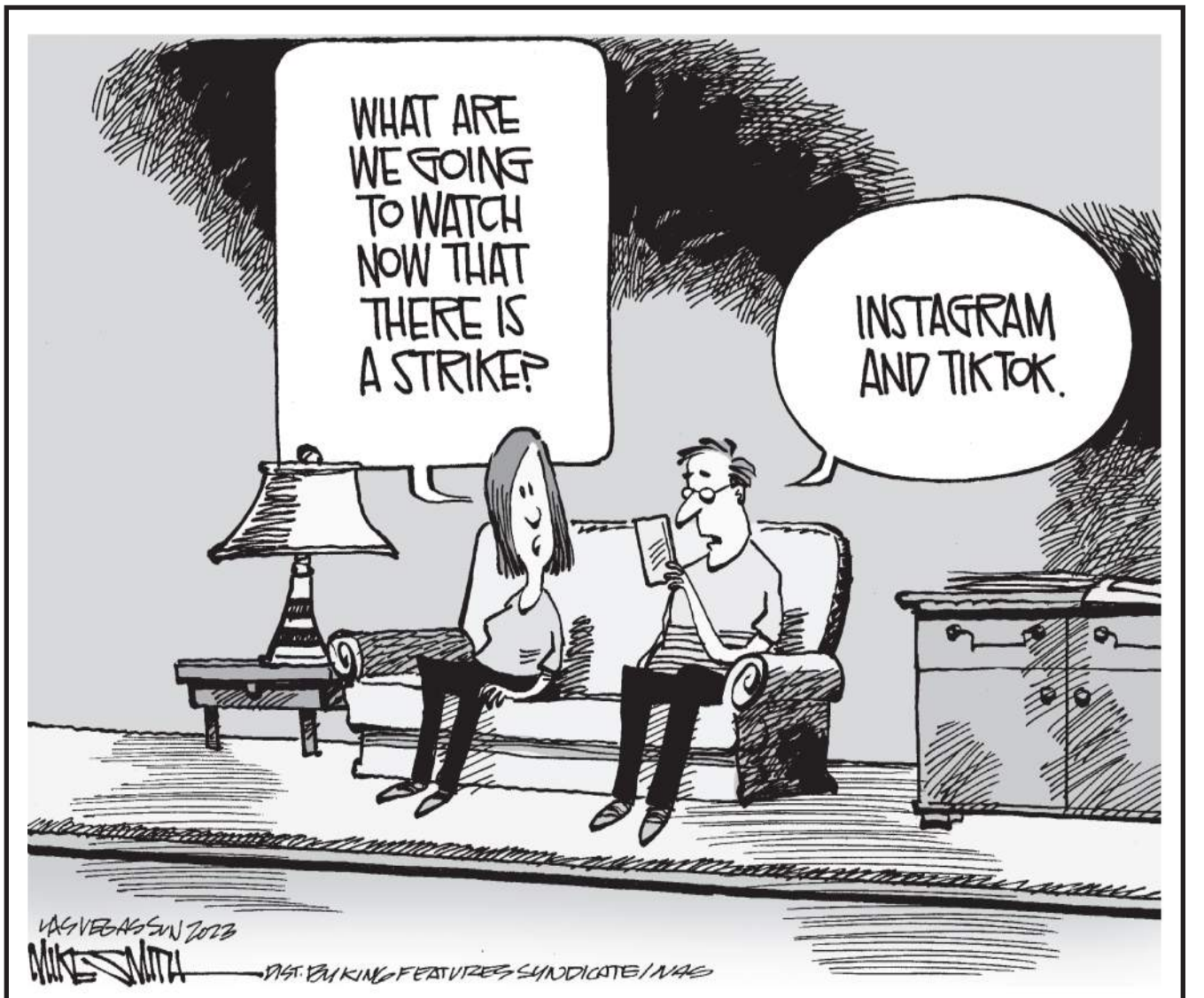
This is known as climate change, and while some in the far-right of the political spectrum—or perhaps those who make their living in the oil and gas industry—would like to deny its existence, let the summer of 2023 be an official (albeit only the latest) wake-up call from Mother Nature: Things are going to get worse.

Climate deniers will surely respond to this unhappy event with their usual conspiracy theories and ignorance to dismiss reality even as 120-degree high temperatures rewrite the record books. (The typical non-denial: "Carbon dioxide is naturally occurring" which is a bit like observing that cancer is found in nature, too). But ask actual experts and there's simply no serious debate about the existence of, and threat posed by, climate change, only on the nitty-gritty of how it's going to play out.

The Canadian wildfires that have already left their Code Red mark on Maryland—with the plume of smoke still likely to return—are largely a byproduct of drought, which, again, is rooted in climate change. Yet even in a state where an estimated 8 out of 10 people recognize that climate change is real, we can get caught up in a political debate over whether raising the state tax on gasoline by pennies each year to keep up with inflation will be ruinous.

While we would be confident that Americans are capable of understanding this—a majority view climate change as a major threat, according to opinion polls—the sharp political divide over the topic threatens to stall serious policy actions. One can only hope that a heat wave hitting Austin and Tallahassee hardest might change some minds in these key red states. Time is of the essence. Even if we somehow stopped burning fossil fuels tomorrow, it wouldn't reverse all the damage we've already done.

See IT'S on Page 9


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO WATCH NOW THAT THERE IS A STRIKE?
INSTAGRAM AND TIKTOK.
LVRJ LAS VEGAS SUN 2023
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

The surreal possibility of another Trump term

By CHRIS EDELSON
Progressive Perspectives

Chris Edelson is an assistant professor of Government at American University and has published two books on U.S. presidential power.

In the wake of Donald Trump's federal indictment, the former president remains legally eligible to run again—even if he is convicted, and even (bizarrely) if he is incarcerated, which is unlikely to occur before the election.

In a functioning, healthy democracy, Trump would be denied the Republican Party's nomination. GOP elites would stand together to reject his candidacy and rally behind a nominee who is not facing criminal prosecution related to willful retention of classified documents. In our current reality, however, the Republican Party is a cult of personality organized around one person and only a few prominent conservatives have said what ought to be obvious: that the evidence supporting Trump's federal indictment demonstrates his unfitness to hold office. At the moment, Trump is the clear frontrunner for the party's nomination, and if he is its nominee, there is a chance he will be elected president again.

All of this is evidence of a continuing authoritarian threat to U.S. democracy. There is no mystery about what Trump has in mind if he wins—he would take the country on a road toward something that looks like Hungary under far-right Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. The stakes are especially high for people who have been targeted, scapegoated and demonized by Trump and other Republicans; in particular, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, African Americans and other people of color.

None of this is reason for panic, but it is a reminder of what is at stake in the 2024 election. We need not be passive observers. A first step in making sense of what is going on and what could happen is to map out some possible scenarios over the next 16 months.

Although it's possible he could end his campaign, let's assume that Trump continues his bid despite the two indictments already issued (and possibly more). His campaign has to contend with logistical issues related to these multiple criminal cases (including another civil case by E. Jean Carroll). Meanwhile, some of his rivals for the Republican nomination—most persistently Chris Christie, but also Asa Hutchinson and to some extent Nikki Haley and Mike Pence—use the pending criminal cases to argue that Trump is unfit to serve. At that point, the Republican primaries and caucuses begin, and one or more of Trump's criminal cases could go to trial in early 2024. Here are the likeliest scenarios that could follow:

In 2016, nearly all establishment Republicans endorsed Trump (and no prominent Republican endorsed Hillary Clinton). In 2020, however, some reasonably prominent Republicans—most notably John Kasich and Cindy McCain—endorsed President Biden. Political scientists believe elites play a central role when they decide either to endorse Trump, endorse no one or endorse his Democratic opponent. The outcome of the election would likely depend in part on what Republican elites do—but also on the economy, any crises that might arise between now and then, and whether Trump fatigue is a significant factor for voters (as it seems to have been to some extent in 2020). Trump's criminal cases would continue to be a significant factor, as one or more might go to trial before the 2024 election.

If Trump won the election, I would expect a dramatic move toward authoritarianism and an end to at least the federal criminal cases brought against him. If he loses, one question would be whether we see more violence, as we did after the 2020 election. I would also expect the criminal cases against Trump to continue, possibly leading to conviction and prison time in one or more cases.

Alternatively, Trump could lose the Republican primaries, or perhaps could drop out, though I consider that highly unlikely as of now. If he lost, the key question would be whether he endorses the Republican nominee, which I also think is highly unlikely. Trump might well run as a third-party candidate, which could have a significant effect on the election—I suspect Biden and the Democrats would welcome this. If the Republican nominee won, there would likely be pressure to pardon Trump, although this would not affect state prosecutions in New York and Georgia.

This continues to be a perilous moment for U.S. democracy and the future, of course, remains uncertain. While we face the surreal possibility that Trump could somehow find a path to winning the presidency in 2024, that path will be rocky. A lot will depend on how he navigates multiple criminal prosecutions and whether Republican elites continue to stand behind him.

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Storms don't have to be this catastrophic

By MARK GONGLOFF
Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion *editor and columnist covering climate change. A former managing editor of Fortune.com, he ran the* HuffPost's *business and technology coverage and was a reporter and editor for the* Wall Street Journal.

Imagine trying to build a boat while it's already at sea and taking on water. You rush from springing leak to springing leak, haunted by a vague sense that a storm is coming but with no idea how big it will be or how long it will last.

This more or less describes how the US is approaching the growing flood threat posed by a warmer atmosphere that holds more water, subjecting the country to bouts of torrential, catastrophic rainfall. Lives are being lost and property destroyed partly because we're moving too slowly to embrace proven solutions to bolster our infrastructure against disasters that are becoming increasingly routine.

Last week in Vermont and New York's Hudson Valley, months' worth of rain fell in hours, overwhelming antiquated water-management infrastructure, resulting in widespread flooding that took at least one life and wiped out roads, bridges, houses and more. Both places had experienced severe flooding before and had taken modest steps to avoid it. Those efforts proved woefully inadequate.

Usually when most of us think of the flood risk posed by climate change, we picture hurricanes and rising oceans. But a warmer planet also means more moisture in the air far from coasts. According to thermodynamics, for every 1 degree Celsius the atmosphere warms, it holds 7% more water vapor. The planet has already warmed 1.2C above pre-industrial averages, and we're on track to add at least 2 more degrees on top of that.

This extra moisture often gets dumped out of the atmosphere in torrential downpours. Climate change was directly responsible for $75 billion in flood damages in the US between 1988 and 2017, according to a 2021 study. That number is certainly higher now and could well rise exponentially in the near future.

It's notable that Vermont was unlucky enough to bear the brunt of this effect last week. The state is often mentioned as a potential haven from climate change, author Jonathan Mingle wrote in the New York Times. As I have written, we keep learning the hard way that there are no climate refuges. You can be hundreds of miles from a wildfire and still choke on its smoke. And when climate hypercharges rain clouds, you don't even have to live near a river to experience flooding. "Localized" flooding, when so much water falls at once that drainage systems can't handle it, is becoming as big a problem as the riverine variety.

So every part of the country must be ready for deluges. Unfortunately, most of our infrastructure has been designed to withstand rainfall projections by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that are hopelessly obsolete. The NOAA's models forecast rainfall using data from decades in the past, when climate change effects were minimal.

Thus the agency's idea of a once-per-century flooding event now occurs far more frequently, according to a recent study by First Street Foundation, a private research firm.

The NOAA is trying to update its rain forecasts, but doesn't expect to finish that job until 2027. We don't have that kind of time. Billions of dollars are already being spent on infrastructure projects across the country, thanks to last year's Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and most of the planning is based on the NOAA's outdated projections. Nearly 13 million households now live in unrecognized flood zones and lack flood insurance, First Street estimates.

Every part of the country at risk of riverine and localized flooding needs urgent and significant upgrades to at least three key defenses, according to Alison Branco, climate adaptation director at the Nature Conservancy in New York:

-- Culverts: The pipes that divert water under roads and bridges are often too small and old to handle modern, climate-fueled deluges.

-- Wetlands and Floodplains: These natural sponges along riverbanks and in low-lying areas keep floodwaters out of places where people travel and congregate. We have developed and paved over too many of them, giving water nowhere to go. Rain gardens, thirsty landscaping and permeable pavement can help in smaller spaces.

-- Storm-Water Management: Everything from street drains to wastewater pumping stations needs to be supersized for the storms to come. Bridges should be redesigned to trap less debris and let water flow.

None of this will come cheap. New York Governor Kathy Hochul recently pledged $516 million to replace 140 bridges and dozens of culverts, but that will leave thousands more in need of upgrade. Opening floodplains involves buying out homeowners. With Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance, Vermont has bought 154 homes since 2011. It may need to buy 10,000 more to be on the safe side, Bloomberg News suggests. And upgrading water-management systems may be the most astronomical cost of all; New York City alone may need to spend $100 billion on such a project.

But we can't let the size of the challenge keep overwhelming our capacity to solve it. Policymakers at every level too often think in the short term, Branco argues, driven by a narrow focus on cost-benefit analysis and the harsh logic of politics. "Let Me Kick You Out of Your Waterfront Property" makes a terrible campaign slogan.

But the alternative is our current piecemeal approach, constantly cleaning up old messes and tinkering at the margins of a problem that grows bigger with every ton of carbon we pump into the atmosphere.

We should acknowledge, rather than deny, our racist past

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

MAGA Republicans' willingness to gum up the necessary functions of governance was on display last week in the House of Representatives.

The unruly Republican rump turned the House's typically bipartisan defense spending bill into a close vote by attaching amendments that have nothing to do with defense and little to do with spending.

Instead they reflect the social policy preferences of many Republicans. For example, the House bill would limit diversity training and transgender care in the military.

> A more honest acknowledgment of our racial past would help us understand—and improve—our racial present.

The most dramatic measure forced into the bill is the elimination of time off and reimbursement for members of the armed forces who travel to another state for an abortion, a policy the Pentagon implemented after the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade last year.

This seems particularly unfair to service members. If you are among the more than 60% of Americans who support a woman's right to control her body and you happen to live in one of the half of American states that, post-Roe, have essentially banned abortion, you can—theoretically—move to a state more in line with your views.

The military, however, tells its soldiers, sailors and Marines where to live. The Pentagon's effort to provide for female soldiers stationed in Texas the same rights as female soldiers stationed in New York is commendable. But Republicans are determined to deny those rights, even if it means defunding the military.

But the amendment that caught my eye was forced onto the defense spending bill by MAGA Republicans with the help of nine Democrats: Defense Department schools would be prohibited from teaching that the United States or its founding documents are racist.

The problem is that nearly all of the Founders were racists. And how could a founding document be more racist than our Constitution, which established in law the right to own enslaved Blacks and counted them at the rate of three-fifths of a white human being?

So the Constitution is a racist document, or at least it was; it reflected the sensibilities of the age in which it was written. Nothing is gained by pretending otherwise.

But "racist" is a term so ugly that Tommy Tuberville, Republican senator from Alabama, recently declined to assign the epithet to white nationalists. Blowback forced a quick change of mind.

But the fact is, since our founding most Americans have probably been racists. My ancestors certainly were. One of them wrote to his father on March 4, 1861, urging support for secession and "for the maintenance of the institution of slavery" and arguing against "free N-word equality." On March 7, 1860, he wrote his brother, reporting that he had been to a "Negro sale": "I bought one little boy about 10 years old for $1151.00, about as good a bargain as was sold on that day."

Am I embarrassed by this blatant racism that resides in my family tree? Not in the least. My white supremacist ancestor is as remote from me as slaveholders such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. In fact, if you're an American, your ancestors were probably racists, too. In the 19th century few, north or south, were truly enlightened about race. What matters is what we think and do about race now.

Contrary to the MAGA amendment tacked onto the defense spending bill denying teachers in Defense Department schools the privilege of talking honestly about race, it would be healthier to acknowledge and accept our racist history. One of the great things about our country is that eventually we abolished slavery, even if it took us a while. England abolished slavery in 1834, and Mexico in 1829, and neither required a civil war.

Still, despite a century of Jim Crow, we have made significant, if fitful, progress on race. But despite a Black president and two Black Americans on the Supreme Court, it's still clear that we have not reached racial perfection.

A more honest acknowledgment of our racial past would help us understand—and improve—our racial present. The Republican amendment on the defense spending bill has just the opposite effect.

IT'S

From page 8

But it would allow the Earth to find a new equilibrium, albeit one that could still include melted glaciers, droughts, floods, higher temperatures, stronger storms and so on. At least we would be doing less to make it worse.

When the dust finally settles and the impact is fully understood, we seriously doubt there will be much comfort in telling anyone, "We told you so." Mostly, we would forecast a lot of embarrassment and shame as we try to explain to our children and grandchildren how we were incapable of dealing with the global threat in a timely manner. The problem didn't start with Baby Boomers or Generation X, but we had the knowledge and the tools to do something about it—and, at least so far, have fallen woefully short.

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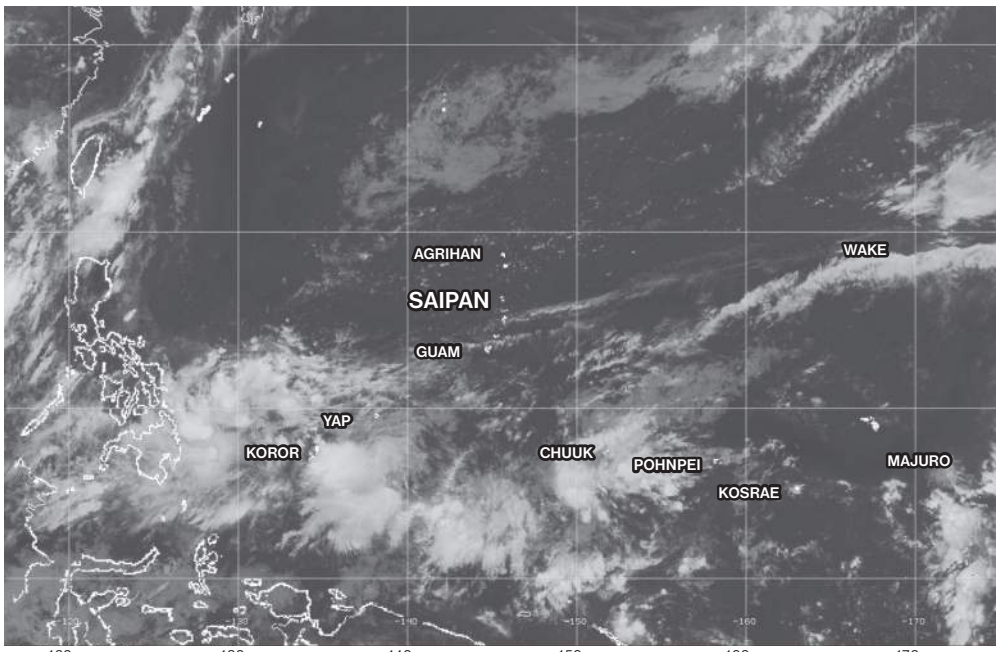
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86° 79°	87° 80°	86° 80°	86° 80°	85° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:53 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 5 feet, composed of trade-wind swell and waves, both from the east-southeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 82°
Palau	Thunderstorms/Wind	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:52 AM	8:07 PM	-
Thursday	7:43 AM	8:46 PM	-
Friday	8:32 AM	9:21 PM	-
Saturday	9:19 AM	9:55 PM	-
Sunday	10:05 AM	10:28 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	102° / 76°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy/Wind	86° / 77°
London	Cloudy	74° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Thunderstorms	86° / 72°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°
Paris	Sunny	80° / 56°
Busan	Thundershowers	79° / 71°
Rome	Sunny	101° / 74°
Salem	Sunny	95° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°
Seoul	Sunny	91° / 73°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	93° / 78°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	91° / 71°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:00 AM	Low Tide	1.42
7:29 AM	High Tide	1.93
3:01 PM	Low Tide	-0.03
10:12 PM	High Tide	1.92

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174 via Guam	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1 July 19	Daily up to
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1 Aug 20	6, 4 July 23 to
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Joeten Superstore gives away 200 hotdogs in 15 minutes

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Joeten Superstore successfully gave away 200 of its lip-smacking good Kirkland Signature 100% All Beef Franks last Saturday in celebration of National Hotdog Month.

Latecomers didn't stand a chance at indulging in the free delights as 15 minutes after midday, the hotdogs were all gone as Joeten Superstore employees bringing trey upon trey of the hotdogs struggled to keep up with the demand.

Hyatt Regency Saipan Marketing & Communications manager Bea Cabrera said she was surprised that there was an ongoing free hotdog promotion, much less that the mountain of frankfurters was reduced to a plateau in such a short time.

"It was a nice surprise. I didn't see any posters or billboards. The sandwich was warm and fresh. I was eating while shopping and It made the experience worthwhile. Thank you Joeten Superstore!" she said.

Northern Marianas College student Charline Ebreo said pairing the free hotdogs with free ice cream made it a double treat.

"It's really good and aside from the free hotdogs, I also loved their free ice cream since summer is very hot this year," she said, adding that she will be giving the hotdog to her cousin.

Micah Larioza, another NMC student, said while she didn't partake of the free hotdog she joined her friends to experience the National Hotdog Month celebration. Larioza later said she prefers the Filipino bright red hotdogs.

Ebreo and Larioza's friend, Chisa Kobayashi, even made a social commentary on Joeten Superstore's nice gesture.

"I think it's a really good opportunity for people to have a free meal especially since the economy is really bad right now," she said while adding that she actually enjoys her hotdogs by slathering them with catsup, mayonnaise, and pickle relish.

Kobayashi, also an NMC student, also admitted that she prefers the pizza at Joeten Superstore and it's been years that she's eaten their hotdogs.

Ador Songcuan, owner of Green Meadow School, thanked Joeten Superstore for the tasty treat.

"It's a very good promotion. Occasionally we do buy hotdogs at Joeten Superstore since my daughter really loves them," he said.

For Aaron Pamintuan, up-and-coming CNMI track and field athlete and personal trainer, the free hotdogs at Joeten Superstore was just what the doctor ordered.

"It helped tame my hunger. I ran in the morning and did some errands. It was the first thing I had. When I crave hotdogs I get it from Joeten Superstore," he said.

As for condiments with his hotdog, Pamintuan said he was so famished he wolfed down the wiener sans any.

Joeten Superstore's Jason Sablan earlier said they were giving away 200 hotdogs in honor of National Hotdog Day on July 19, 2023 and the concurrent National Hotdog Month in July.

He said they're proud of their Kirkland Signature 100% All Beef Franks as they don't contain any by-products like corn syrups, phosphates, fillers, or artificial colors or flavors. The franks, along with the buns are steamed and served wrapped in tin foil, added Sablan.

Moreover, Sablan said Joeten Superstore's hotdogs are served plain and customers can choose their condiment of choice—ketchup, mayo, mustard, tabasco, and relish—at the condiment section beside the snack bar.

According to the internet, National Hotdog Day is celebrated on the third Wednesday in July.

The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council established National Hot Dog Day in 1991 to coincide with a hotdog lunch on Capitol Hill.

MARK RABAGO
Joeten Superstore employees gave away 200 hotdogs in 15 minutes in celebration of National Hotdog Day and National Hotdog Month last Saturday.

MARK RABAGO
Shoppers were treated with free Kirkland Signature 100% All Beef Franks.

MARK RABAGO
From left, friends Maxine Rabago, Micah Larioza, Chisa Kobayashi, and Charline Ebreo took advantage of the free hotdog promotion at Joeten Superstore.

Biden, Sanders meet union organizers amid labor turmoil

WASHINGTON (AP)—With labor turmoil roiling industries from coast to coast, President Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders met with organizers at the White House on Monday to talk about ways to boost union membership.

The organizers represent industries and workplaces that have not traditionally been represented by unions, such as Starbucks coffee shops and video game companies.

Sanders, an independent from Vermont, said outside the White House that more people are "standing up and saying it is important for us to have a union so we can earn better wages, better working conditions, better pensions and dignity on the job."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the president believes that "worker power is essential for growing the economy from the middle out and the bottom up."

The meeting took place as strikes have been launched and threatened around the country. Entertainment unions representing actors and writers have shut down film and television production over concerns about how revenue is shared in an industry geared more toward streaming content online.

"The president believes all workers, including the writers, including the actors, they deserve a fair pay," Jean-Pierre said. "And they deserve fair benefits."

She said the administration hopes that "the parties come together and have a mutually beneficial agreement as soon as possible."

There's already talk of a United Auto Workers strike as contract talks get under way and the industry wrestles with a transition toward electric vehicles. In addition, the Teamsters said its drivers might walk off the job as they struggle to reach a new contract with UPS. Negotiations have a deadline of July 31, and union leader Sean O'Brien said he doesn't want the White House to get involved.

Russia halts deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain

LONDON (AP)—Russia on Monday halted a breakthrough wartime deal that allowed grain to flow from Ukraine to countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where hunger is a growing threat and high food prices have pushed more people into poverty.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Black Sea Grain Initiative would be suspended until demands to get Russian food and fertilizer to the world are met. An attack Monday on a bridge connecting the Crimean Peninsula to Russia was not a factor in the decision, he said.

"When the part of the Black Sea deal related to Russia is implemented, Russia will immediately return to the implementation of the deal," Peskov said.

Russian representatives at the operation center for the initiative were more definitive, calling the decision "a termination," according to a note obtained by The Associated Press. Russia has complained that restrictions on shipping and insurance have hampered its agricultural exports, but it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

The suspension marks the end of an accord that the U.N. and Turkey brokered last summer to allow shipments of food from the Black Sea region after Russia's invasion of its neighbor worsened a global food crisis. The initiative is credited with helping reduce soaring prices of wheat, vegetable oil and other global food commodities.

Ukraine and Russia are both major global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food that developing nations rely on.

The suspension of the deal sent wheat prices up about 3% in Chicago trading, to $6.81 a bushel, which is still about half what they were at last year's peak. Prices fell later in the day.

Some analysts don't expect more than a temporary bump in food staples traded on global markets because countries such as Russia and Brazil have ratcheted up wheat and corn exports. But food insecurity worldwide and prices at local stores and markets have risen as developing countries also struggle with climate change, conflict and economic crises. Finding suppliers outside Ukraine that are farther away also could raise costs, analysts say.

The grain deal provided guarantees that ships would not be attacked entering and leaving Ukrainian ports, while a separate agreement facilitated the movement of Russian food and fertilizer. Western sanctions do not apply to Moscow's agricultural shipments, but some companies may be wary of doing business with Russia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he wanted to keep the initiative going even without Russia's safety assurances for ships.

Nation

Georgia mass shooting suspect killed after intense search

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP)—Officers on Sunday shot and killed a man wanted in four weekend killings near Atlanta during an exchange of gunfire, with a sheriff's deputy and two police officers wounded while trying to take the suspect into custody, authorities said.

Officials said Andre Longmore was shot during an intense search for the 40-year-old suspect. The exchange of gunfire came a day after Saturday morning's shootings rocked a bucolic subdivision in Hampton, south of Georgia's main city.

Officials said Longmore was killed about 15 miles (25 kilometers) to the north of Hampton in suburban Jonesboro. Clayton County police said a Henry County sheriff's deputy saw the SUV that Longmore stole from one of the victims and began chasing him, calling for help. After exchanging gunfire with Longmore, Clayton police said he ran away.

AP

In this photo tweeted by WSB-TV's Steve Gehlbach, Hampton Police Chief James Turner, center, stands next to a mounted picture of suspect Andre Longmore during a news conference in Hampton, Ga., Saturday, July 15, 2023.

Justin Robinson told WANF-TV that Longmore entered the backyard of a townhouse.

"He had a gun, he was bleeding, he was naked," Robinson said.

Robinson said he alerted police officers, who were greeted with gunfire when they entered the townhouse where Longmore had hidden.

"Soon as they open the back door this guy starts shooting, shoots at the cops," Robinson said. "The police start shooting."

A Henry County sheriff's deputy and two Clayton County police officers were injured in the attempt to arrest Longmore, officials said.

One officer was shot in the back and was taken by helicopter to an Atlanta trauma center, Henry County Sheriff Reginald Scandrett said. "He is conscious, breathing and talking at this time," Scandrett said of that officer.

Clayton County Police Chief Kevin Roberts said all three officers are expected to recover. Details on the conditions of the other two wounded officers were not immediately made public.

Hampton Police Chief James Turner said the four killed Saturday were all residents of the same Dogwood Lakes neighborhood where Longmore lived, and where all were shot within a 10-minute span. He identified the victims as 67-year old Scott Leavitt and his wife, 66-year old Shirley Leavitt, as well as 65-year-old Steve Blizzard and 66-year-old Ronald Jeffers.

Sherry Wyatt, who works at Hampton's recreation center near Jeffers' home, said Jeffers would regularly come in to sing at the senior center that shares the building.

A few months ago, Jeffers came over to her side of the building to practice and she told him how beautiful was his voice.

"I'm just so glad I told him he sang like an angel," said Wyatt, adding her heart was heavy Sunday over his death. "I know he is in heaven now singing."

A relative of Blizzard did not immediately respond to a Facebook message.

Authorities had been seeking to arrest Longmore on four murder warrants for the deaths. Turner said Longmore's motives remained under investigation.

On Sunday, neighbor Frankie Worth told The Associated Press he heard a gunshot Saturday morning as he was reaching for his living room window to open the blinds and see how much yard work he had to do.

Worth said he ducked "just for a second" and then looked back out the window. "You know, when you get incoming, you've got to know where it's coming from," said Worth, who identified himself as a Marine Corps veteran.

Longmore, who Worth knew only as Andre, was standing in the street. He described seeing the man's hands jerking from the recoil of firing a silver handgun.

Phoenix extreme heat will break record for US cities

PHOENIX (AP)—Phoenix's relentless streak of dangerously hot days was finally poised to smash a record for major U.S. cities on Tuesday, the 19th straight day the desert city was to see temperatures soar to 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 C) or more.

Nighttime has offered little relief from the brutal temperatures. Phoenix's low of 95 F (35 C) on Monday was its highest overnight low ever, toppling the previous record of 93 F (33.8 C) set in 2009. It was the eighth straight day of temperatures not falling below 90 F (32.2 C), another record.

It's "pretty miserable when you don't have any recovery overnight," said National Weather Service meteorologist Matt Salerno.

The length of Phoenix's heat wave is notable even during a summer in which much of the southern United States and the world as a whole has been cooking in record temperatures, something scientists say is stoked by climate change.

What's going on in a metropolitan area known as the Valley of the Sun is far worse than a short spike in the thermometer, experts said, and it poses a health danger to many.

"Long-term exposure to heat is more difficult to withstand than single hot days, especially if it is not cooling off at night enough to sleep well," said Katharine Jacobs, director of the Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions at the University of Arizona.

"This will likely be one of the most notable periods in our health record in terms of deaths and illness," said David Hondula, chief heat officer for the City of Phoenix. "Our goal is for that not to be the case."

The last time Phoenix didn't reach 110 F (43.3 C) was June 29, when it hit 108 (42.2 C). The record of 18 days above 110 that was tied Monday was first set in 1974, and it appeared destined to be shattered with temperatures forecast above that through the end of the week.

"This is very persistent," said National Weather Service meteorologist Isaac Smith. "We're just going to see this streak continue it looks like."

No other major U.S. city has had a streak of 110 degree days or 90 degree nights longer than Phoenix, said weather historian Christopher Burt of the Weather Company.

NOAA climate data scientists Russ Vose and Ken Kunkel found no large cities with that run of heat, but smaller places such as Death Valley and Needles in California and Casa Grande in Arizona have had longer streaks. Death Valley has had an 84-day streak of 110-degree temperatures and a 47-day streak of nighttime temperatures not going below 90, Vose said.

Phoenix's heat wave has both long and short-term causes, said Arizona State University's Randy Cerveny, who coordinates weather record verification for the World Meteorological Organization.

Children lost in flooding as US endures extreme weather

WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa. (AP)—Pennsylvania authorities drew on 100 people, drones and cadaver dogs Monday in their search for two missing children whose family's car was swept away in flash flooding that ravaged the East Coast over the weekend. Other parts of the country endured threateningly high temperatures and severe air pollution from Canadian wildfires.

In eastern Pennsylvania, authorities described Monday's search for missing Matilda Sheils, 2, and her 9-month-old brother Conrad Sheils as a "massive undertaking" along a creek that drains into the Delaware River. The children are members of a Charleston, South Carolina, family that was visiting relatives and friends when they got caught in a flash flood Saturday.

The children's father, Jim Sheils, grabbed their 4-year-old son, while the children's mother, Katie Seley, and a grandmother grabbed the other children, said Upper Makefield Township Fire Chief Tim Brewer. Sheils and his son made it to safety, but Seley and the grandmother were swept away.

The grandmother survived, but Seley, 32, was among five killed by the floods.

"A wall of water came to them; they did not go into the water," Brewer said of the Sheils family.

Scott Ellis, an uncle to the missing children, described the family as "utterly devastated."

Monsignor Michael Picard of St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, where family members are parishioners, said he spoke with the grandparents Sunday.

"No matter how long I've been doing this — over and over and over, many, many years — you find yourself still helpless and without words to make people feel more comfortable," Picard said. "And so you just simply pray with them for a few minutes."

Pennsylvania's flash floods also drowned Enzo Depiero, 78, and Linda Depiero, 74, of Newtown; Yuko Love, 64, of Newtown; and Susan Barnhart, 53, of Titusville, New Jersey, Bucks County Coroner Meredith Buck said.

The county commissioners signed an emergency declaration in response to the flooding.

Other parts of the saturated Northeast began drying out Monday after drenching weekend rains resulted in flash flooding in parts of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency Sunday.

The Vermont Emergency Management agency reported that swift-water rescue teams conducted an additional six rescues overnight. The agency also was monitoring areas at risk for landslides.

Asia

China criticizes upcoming US visit of Taiwan vice president

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China is criticizing an upcoming stopover in the United States by Taiwan's vice president and presidential front-runner William Lai as a challenge to its territorial integrity, while Taiwan says it's merely a transit stop.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province to be retaken by force if necessary and prohibits its diplomatic partners – including the U.S. – from having formal ties with Taipei. While not recognizing Taiwan as a country, Washington maintains robust unofficial ties and has pledged to help Taiwan defend itself in case of an invasion.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said at a briefing in Beijing that China had lodged formal protests with the U.S. over Lai's visit next month.

"China is firmly opposed to any form of official exchanges between the United States and Taiwan," spokeswoman Mao Ning said. "We firmly reject Taiwan independence separatists visiting the U.S. under any name and for any reason, as well as any form of the U.S. connivance and support of the Taiwan independence separatists and their separatist activities."

"China will closely monitor developments and take resolute and forceful measures to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity," she added.

A senior U.S. administration official said such trips are hardly unusual — there have been 10 previous vice presidential visits in the last two decades, including one by Lai previously — and that the White House encouraged Beijing to avoid using it as a pretext for interference or escalation across the Taiwan Strait. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss Lai's upcoming travel.

The criticism comes on the heels of Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Beijing to restore lines of communication broken after a Chinese spy balloon was discovered flying over the U.S. earlier this year, and as U.S. climate envoy John Kerry is in China for talks. The official said the U.S. sees no reason why Lai's trip should impact the restoration of lines of communication between Washington and Beijing and described Lai's travel as private and unofficial.

Lai is expected to stop in the U.S. as part of a trip to attend the inauguration of Paraguay's new president, Santiago Pena, on Aug. 15. Taiwan's presidential palace announced Monday that Lai's delegation would arrive in Paraguay on Aug. 14.

Taiwan's leaders have traditionally stopped in the U.S. en route to visiting some of Taiwan's remaining 13 diplomatic allies, a handful of which are countries in Latin America.

The Taiwanese delegations usually hold meetings with U.S. officials during these visits, angering Beijing.

China launched war games around Taiwan in April after Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen met U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in Los Angeles while on her way back from Central America.

Lai's upcoming U.S. trip is especially symbolic because he has topped most polls as a favorite to win the January presidential election.

China sees both Tsai and Lai as separatists and has refused to talk with them.

Sokor-US consulting group meets in response to Nokor nuke threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A bilateral consulting group of South Korean and U.S. officials met Tuesday in Seoul to discuss strengthening their nations' deterrence capabilities against North Korea's evolving nuclear threats.

The Nuclear Consultative Group was established as part of agreements Presidents Joe Biden and Yoon Suk Yeol made when they met in April.

Seoul officials say the body is tasked with sharing information on nuclear and strategic weapons operation plans and discussing joint operations. The U.S. would retain operational control of U.S. nuclear weapons, and Washington officials say the group's establishment and other steps announced in April were meant to ease South Korean worries about North Korean provocations while keeping Seoul from pursuing its own nuclear program.

The group's inaugural meeting "will serve as an important starting point to establish powerful, effective Korea-U.S. extended deterrence," Yoon said during a televised Cabinet Council meeting, referring to a U.S. security commitment to use full U.S. capabilities, including nuclear, to protect its allies.

Yoon said the allies will make substantial efforts to resolve North Korean nuclear threats based on "the Korea-U.S. alliance that is upgraded with a new, nuclear-based paradigm."

Yoon visited a conference room to meet the South Korean and U.S. officials at the group's inaugural meeting at the presidential office in Seoul. Yoon told them the two countries must bolster their deterrence capabilities to make North Korea not dare to think about using nuclear weapons, according to Yoon's office.

Earlier, Sabrina Singh, a deputy Pentagon press secretary, told reporters Monday that the goal of the meeting is to begin implementing the Biden-Yoon declaration in April, "which reaffirms our joint extended deterrence in the region."

The meeting was co-chaired by U.S. National Security Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell and South Korea's deputy national security director, Kim Tae-hyo.

North Korea's nuclear ambitions have taken on new urgency after it openly threatened to use nuclear weapons in potential conflicts with its rivals and carried out about 100 missile tests since the start of last year.

Last week, North Korea conducted a second flight-test of a more mobile, powerful intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the mainland U.S. After observing that launch, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to further bolster his country's nuclear fighting capabilities.

During their April summit in Washington, Yoon and Biden also agreed on the U.S. enhancing "the regular visibility" of its strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula, such as the planned periodic docking of a U.S. nuclear-armed submarine in South Korea, and the two countries bolstering joint training exercises. Biden also stated that any North Korean nuclear attack on the U.S. or its allies would "result in the end of whatever regime" took such action.

North Korea has responded that such steps proved the allies' extreme hostility toward North Korea. It threatened to further bolster its escalatory nuclear doctrine in protest.

World

Russian fighter airplane flies too close to US warplane over Syria

AP

In this image from video released by the U.S. Air Force, a Russian Su-35 flies near a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper drone on July 5, 2023, over Syria.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Russian fighter jet flew very close to a U.S. surveillance aircraft over Syria, forcing it to go through the turbulent wake and putting the lives of the four American crew members in danger, U.S. officials said Monday.

The officials said the incident, which happened just before noon EDT on Sunday, was a significant escalation in what has been a string of encounters between U.S. and Russian aircraft in Syria in recent weeks. The intercept by the Russian Su-35 impeded the U.S. crew's ability to safely operate their MC-12 aircraft, the officials said, calling it a new level of unsafe behavior that could result in an accident or loss of life.

In recent weeks, Russian fighter jets have repeatedly harassed U.S. unmanned MQ-9 drones, but the latest incident raised alarms because it endangered American lives.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of a military operation, would not say how close the Russian jet got to the U.S. warplane. The MC-12, which is a twin-engine turboprop aircraft routinely used by special operations forces, was doing surveillance in support of operations against the Islamic State groups in Syria, the officials said.

On multiple occasions in the past two weeks, Russian fighter jets flew dangerously close to MQ-9 Reapers, setting off flares and forcing the drones to take evasive maneuvers. U.S. and Russian military officers communicate frequently over a deconfliction phone line during the encounters, protesting the other side's actions.

The U.S. is considering a number of military options to address the increasing Russian aggression in the skies over Syria, which complicated efforts to strike an Islamic State group leader earlier this month, according to a senior defense official. The U.S. was eventually able to launch a strike and kill the militant.

The official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations, declined to detail the options under consideration, but said the U.S. will not cede any territory and will continue to fly in the western part of the country on anti-Islamic State missions.

Israel presses ahead with plan to overhaul courts ahead of protests

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israel's governing coalition pushed ahead Monday with its contentious plan to overhaul the country's judiciary, despite growing opposition from within the country's military and a wave of mass protests expected this week.

A parliamentary committee was preparing a bill that would limit judicial oversight on some government decisions, legislation that has sparked intensifying criticism from military reservists in elite units, including the air force and cyberwarfare.

Many have warned they will not show up for duty if the overhaul moves ahead. Reservists, who make up the backbone of the country's mostly compulsory military, played a key role in prompting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to pause the overhaul plan earlier this year.

In response to the legislation, which is expected to go before a final parliamentary vote early next week, a large protest movement is expected to stage a "day of disruption" on Tuesday. These days of mass protest in the past have snarled traffic, choked the terminal at Israel's main international airport and descended into clashes between police and demonstrators.

The judicial overhaul, advanced by Netanyahu's nationalist and religious government, has deeply divided Israel, plunging it into one of its worst domestic crises and even sparking concern from its most important ally, the U.S.

The prime minister's office said Netanyahu told President Joe Biden on Monday that a bill to remove the Supreme Court's ability to strike down government actions it deemed "unreasonable" would be brought for a parliamentary vote next week. But he said that he would "try to form broad public support" for the rest of the judicial overhaul over the summer recess, the office said.

Netanyahu paused the overhaul in March, facing a wave of mass protests, labor strikes that halted outgoing flights and many other sectors and pledges by military reservists to not show up for duty if the legislation advanced. Similar pressures are reemerging as the government resumes its efforts.

Good Housekeeping

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

HANDOUT/TNS

The home opens up to the living room, where a bold expression of texture and color greet you at the door.

Take a peek inside this preppy home

Nell Hill's designer Anne and her family have lived in their Prairie Village, Kansas, home for almost four years. When the Epsteins purchased their nearly century-old home in the suburbs of Kansas, they knew it needed an update. Many big and little projects needed to get done. The ceilings were vaulted, kitchen entirely remodeled, even the location of the stairs to the basement were moved.

While Anne may tell you the house is still a work in progress, as any design is ever-evolving, I love that it is a true expression of her personal style. I positively pounced on the opportunity to bring you inside for a guided tour of her gorgeous home.

The kitchen

At the far end of the sprawling ranch-style home lies a bright and airy kitchen, outfitted with a sleek built-in refrigerator and six-burner stovetop perfect for whipping up meals for her busy family of five. Beautiful muted vintage rugs anchor the space; the runner was recently purchased from a vintage rug vendor on a buying trip to High Point Market for the shop. The stools are non-custom pieces that were reimagined with a beautiful Schumacher fabric and a breathtaking navy double-welt edge.

Anne lives for preppy chinoiserie, so a burnt orange vase makes perfect sense as the focal point of her kitchen island. Above it, she added brushed brass pendant lights. To the right of the pantry is a rustic vintage-inspired buffet layered with everyday pieces and stacks of dainty dishes.

The sitting room

A sitting room is tucked off the side of the dining space, a favorite spot for the family to curl up and watch television at the end of the day. The walls are dressed in a rich navy that complements the buttery velvet ottoman in the middle of the room and sets the tone for a bold and vibrant space that still brings an air of relaxation. Black-and-white buffalo check curtains add a preppy detail and lend to the casual elegance of the design.

The back cushions of this down-stuffed ticking stripe sectional sofa is a favorite napping spot of Anne's pup, Oliver. She loves the luxurious feeling that down offers but may warn you before selecting it for a high-traffic lounge spot if you aren't prepared to deal with the maintenance it takes to keep it performing its best. (This does include regular cushion rotation!)

A monogrammed pillow made by Anne's daughter brings out the lush pink tones in the matching tiger pillows custom-made from a famous fabric house. Carrying the preppy pink tones to the ottoman is a chinoise planter housing a blooming orchid. Her artwork, curated over time, is a beautiful combination of elements. The trays add texture, while the porcelain plates add dimension against the striking navy wall.

The dining room

Upon entering the home, you're greeted immediately by the open and welcoming dining room. Bamboo Chippendale chairs are pulled up to an expansive table, twin upholstered chairs in a coral colorway flank either side in a popular otomi pattern. Anne likes this fabric so much she's actually used it several places in her home. The couch in the nearby living room features a pillow of the same fabric in green!

HANDOUT/TNS

A Derby Day table is set with beautiful dishes Anne has collected over the years.

A Derby Day table is set with beautiful dishes Anne has collected over the years. On the mantel she's tied in serveware as decor and incorporated New Traditional accents like laurel wreaths, slip-covered books, and blooms at varying heights. The vignette reads casual but elegant, perfect for an evening of entertaining family friends.

The powder room

To the left of the hall on the way to the bedrooms is the guest powder room. The walls are covered in a faux grasscloth material that feels as luxe as it looks. The vanity, a chinoise-inspired piece with bamboo detailing, commands the space. The light fixtures, a preppy and chic Kate Spade design, bring the deep hues of the vanity up to your eyeline.

Earthy artwork complements the warm tone of the walls and furthers the juxtaposition of the inky black statement pieces. A decorative tissue holder and matching tray add a welcome pop of New Traditional blue

The living room

The home opens up to the living room, where a bold expression of texture and color greet you at the door. The room is an absolutely lovely combination of preppy and New Traditional elements that are perfect for Anne. The walls are dressed up with a botanical-inspired Schumacher wallpaper in a cool and casual colorway. The artwork adds in a dash of prep to the space. The rug's blues and greens are well at home in this vibrant space. In fact, Anne has been known to bring a lucky client or two over to see it before ordering it for their homes.

HANDOUT/TNS

The powder room vanity, a chinoise-inspired piece with bamboo detailing, commands the space.

Twin chairs sit opposite the couch, green gimp and nailhead trim adding a stately detail to the delicate pair. A pair of pillows complement them, their flange tying into the little pops of pink that are found throughout the space. The coffee table and buffet add in rich warm tones that mix with with the bright upholstery in a bright and cheery way. Tucked under the console are a pair of ottomans covered in a dazzling green animal print, the legs painted navy for an extra layer of customization that makes them stand out. Not only do they add a fun detail to the space, they're easily accessible for additional seating if needed.

The console is topped with traditional elements; a collection of blue chinoiserie taking center stage, including a tiny delicate tea set that has been in her family for years. The scene is flanked by a pair of lamps that feature a dazzling collection of insects and vintage-inspired concrete statues.

I hope you enjoyed this lovely amble through Anne's happy and stylish home. To me, her house is a testament to the fact that what you like is always in style. I hope it inspired you to think outside your comfort zone and not be afraid to inject your personality into your spaces.

HANDOUT/TNS

To the right of the pantry is a rustic vintage-inspired buffet layered with everyday pieces and stacks of dainty dishes.

HANDOUT/TNS

Anne lives for preppy chinoiserie, so a burnt orange vase makes perfect sense as the focal point of her kitchen island. Above it, she added brushed brass pendant lights.

Life & Style

It's official: Taylor Swift has more No. 1 albums than any woman in history

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Congratulations are in order for Taylor Swift and her loyal fans, known as Swifties. The pop star officially has more No. 1 albums than any woman in history.

"Speak Now (Taylor's Version)", released earlier this month, is the third in her endeavor to re-record her first six albums, instigated by music manager Scooter Braun's sale of her early catalog. It has officially debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, becoming her 12th album to reach the top spot.

Previously, Barbra Streisand held the record, with 11 No. 1 albums.

Swift ties Drake's record of 12 No. 1 records, but sits just behind Jay-Z, who has 14 No. 1 albums to his name, and the Beatles, who have 19.

Swift

In addition to hitting this incredible milestone, Swift has 2023's biggest album release to date, with 716,000 equivalent album units, according to Luminate. An impressive 506,600 are in traditional album sales (a combination of 410,000 physical and 96,600 digital sales.)

With those figures, Swift has dethroned country singer Morgan Wallen, whose album

Princess Diana's black sheep sweater could fetch at least $50,000 at auction

LONDON (AP)—A red sweater adorned with a flock of sheep worn by the young Princess Diana is expected to sell for more than $50,000 at auction.

The playfully patterned wool jumper featuring a single black sheep amid a pattern of white ones headlines Sotheby's online Fashion Icons sale in September.

The 19-year-old Lady Diana Spencer was photographed in the garment at a polo match in June 1981, soon after her engagement to Prince Charles, who was then heir to the British throne.

Diana was already becoming a style icon —- and one of the world's most photographed women—and the moment gave a big boost to designers Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne, who made the sweater for their small knitwear label Warm & Wonderful.

A few weeks later, Muir and Osborne received an official letter from Buckingham Palace explaining that Diana had damaged the sweater and asking whether it could be repaired or replaced. The original was returned, showing damage to a sleeve the designers thought might have been caused by snagging on Diana's diamond and sapphire engagement ring.

A new sweater was knitted and dispatched, and Diana was photographed wearing it with white jeans and a black ribbon tie at an event in 1983.

Some have speculated Diana liked the "black sheep" pattern because she felt like an outsider in the royal family. Emma Corrin sported a replica as the young Diana in season four of "The Crown."

Warm & Wonderful still makes a cotton version of the design, which sells for 190 pounds ($250). Osborne discovered the original lying forgotten in a box in an attic earlier this year.

Cynthia Houlton, Sotheby's global head of fashion and accessories, said "this exceptional garment, meticulously preserved, carries the whispers of Princess Diana's grace, charm, and her keen eye for fashion."

The sweater, which has an estimated price of $50,000 to $80,000, will be on display at Sotheby's New York showroom from Sept. 7-13. Online bidding opens Aug. 31 and runs to Sept. 14.

The record for a piece of Diana memorabilia is $604,800 for a Victor Edelstein-designed ballgown sold by Sotheby's in January.

AP

The historic Princess Diana black sheep jumper is on display at the auction house Sotheby's in London, Monday, July 17, 2023.

Lindsay Lohan gives birth to her first child

Lindsay Lohan has given birth to her first child.

The "Parent Trap" star and her husband, financier Bader Shammas, are the parents of a "beautiful, healthy son" named Luai, her rep told The Associated Press in a statement Monday.

Lohan

"The family is over the moon in love," the statement said.

Lohan, 37, gave birth in Dubai, where the couple lives, according to Page Six. Her son's exact birth date was not released.

Luai is an Arabic name that means "shield" or "protector."

Lohan announced her pregnancy in March in a photo posted to Instagram of a white onesie emblazoned with "coming soon."

She has lived overseas for several years and has been married to Shammas since last year.

Lohan was once a tabloid mainstay but now keeps a lower public profile. She has returned to acting, starring last year in Netflix's "Falling for Christmas," and on the streaming service's upcoming romantic comedy "Irish Wish."

Elton John testifies in Kevin Spacey's sexual assault trial

LONDON (AP)—Kevin Spacey 's lawyers enlisted the help of an A-list star Monday in his sexual assault trial, calling on Elton John and his husband to cast doubt on one of the Oscar winner's accusers at the end of the defense case.

John appeared briefly in the London court by video link from Monaco after his husband, David Furnish, testified that Spacey did not attend an annual gala ball at their Windsor home at the time that the accuser said he was attacked in a car.

John was the final witness for the defense and was followed by character testimonials from colleagues, friends and family that had Spacey in tears in the dock when they were read aloud by his lawyer in Southwark Crown Court.

Spacey, 63, has pleaded not guilty to a dozen charges that include sexual and indecent assault counts and one count of causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent.

One of the alleged victims said he was driving Spacey to the White Tie & Tiara Ball in 2004 or 2005 when the actor grabbed his crotch so forcefully that he almost ran off the road.

Furnish supported Spacey's own testimony that the only year he had attended the event was 2001. Furnish said he had reviewed photographs taken at the party from 2001 to 2005 and Spacey only appeared in images that one year. He said all guests were photographed each year.

Boyfriend rages when demands for sex are denied

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 37-year-old stay-at-home mother of two teens. I've been in a relationship with a guy I'll call "Doug" for four years. I feel he only wants me here for sex. If I say no, he either tries to force it or verbally abuses me.

He tells me if I don't give him sex, I need to leave so he can bring another woman to do it. He will destroy my belongings or call me names. He says it's my fault that he does that to me. I'm not sure what to do here. Is it my fault?

BAD SCENE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR BAD SCENE: When a boyfriend (or husband for that matter) forces their partner to have sex, it isn't foreplay; it is RAPE. That Doug emotionally abuses you or destroys your property if you refuse to accommodate him is not your "fault." ("You MADE me do it" is something abusers say when they want to avoid taking responsibility for their actions.)

What you need to do now is get out of there as safely as you can. Place a confidential call to the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233) and ask for help formulating a plan to safely escape your abuser, because that is what this man is.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A casual friend and neighbor started doing the books at the company where I work. This means she knows my income, which she didn't before. We live in a small town and are on several committees together outside of work, including a board for a local charity and the PTO for our kids' school.

Now that she knows how much I make, she's on my case to be "more generous in my donations" to these groups and is spreading misinformation about my financial situation. For example, when the PTO fundraiser fell flat, she told the group I could make up the difference out of my pocket!

The thing is, she doesn't have the full picture. I donate to organizations she doesn't know about and help to support my oldest nephew, who has a disability and struggles to get by on his own. For now, I'm doing as much as I feel comfortable with, and I don't want to have to divulge all the details of my financial life to get her off my back.

Asking her to stop harassing me has led to more (public) statements about my "stinginess." Now other people in town are starting to ask me to donate to their causes, having gotten the impression I'm hiding deep pockets and have no obligations. How do I get this to stop? I worry about getting the wrong reputation in this community.

IN A PICKLE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR IN A PICKLE: Financial information is supposed to be kept private, and for a bookkeeper to leak yours is unforgivable, unethical and perhaps illegal! You should have gone to your employer and reported the woman the first time she hit you up for money and discussed your financial status with your neighbors.

Now that the cat is out of the bag, I hope you will discuss this with an attorney and determine what your legal options are. As to anyone who approaches you about contributing to their favorite causes, do not go into detail about what you are funding. Just say no.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

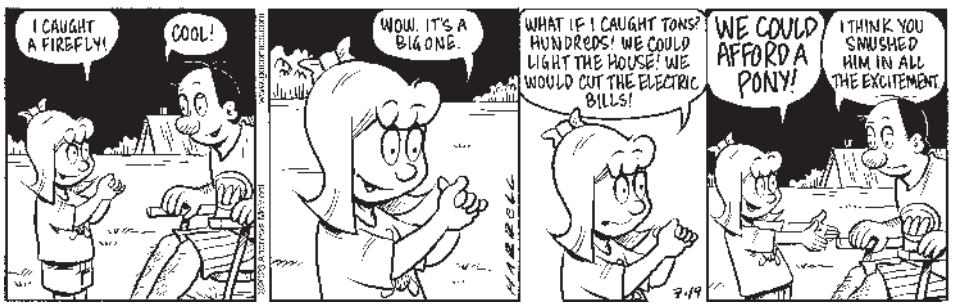
MOMM! HEY, MOM!
CALVIN, STOP YELLING ACROSS THE HOUSE! IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME, WALK OVER TO THE LIVING ROOM, WHERE I AM!
I STEPPED IN DOG DOO. WHERE'S THE HOSE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I CAUGHT A FIREFLY!
COOL!
WOW. IT'S A BIG ONE.
WHAT IF I CAUGHT TONS? HUNDREDS! WE COULD LIGHT THE HOUSE! WE WOULD CUT THE ELECTRIC BILLS!
WE COULD AFFORD A PONY!
I THINK YOU SMUSHED HIM IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I KNOW OUR TEAM IS BAD AND THE MANAGER IS TIRED OF LOSING, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS HAPPEN.
HE'S A GOOD MANAGER. I'M SURE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING. NO NEED TO WORRY.
OH, YEAH? IT'S THE 3rd INNING AND HE JUST SENT THE ENTIRE TEAM TO THE SHOWERS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Popular card game
4 Sleep phenomena
8 Words to Brutus
12 Sailor's chart
13 Differently
14 Unrepaired
15 School book fair org.
16 Discounter's disclaimer
18 Sun-powered
20 Actress — Dawn Chong
21 Violin part
24 Town square
28 Chinese design system
32 Whole lot
33 Ginger —
34 Reddish dye
36 Jargon suffix
37 Entryway
39 Actors' workplaces
41 Mideast peninsula
43 Swedish auto
44 "— Pinafore"
46 Dagwood's dog
50 Equal chance
55 Fill in — blank
56 Utah ski resort
57 Jacob's brother
58 Operate
59 Wild party
60 Calendar squares
61 "Of course"

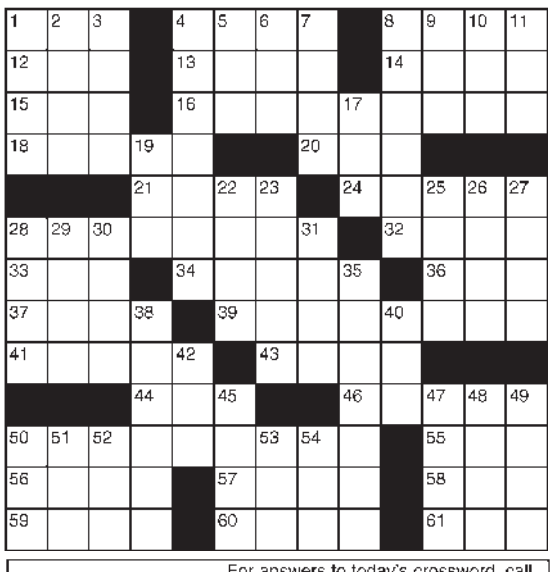
DOWN
1 Diamond heads?
2 Post-WWII alliance
3 October birthstone
4 Browser button
5 Yale grad
6 ISP choice
7 Cauterize
8 Art props
9 Airport screening org.
10 Up to
11 Employ
17 Napkin's place
19 "Hulk" director Lee
22 Food Network star
23 Mila of "Black Swan"
25 Downwind
26 Pizzazz
27 Dazzles
28 Crazes
29 "The Time Machine" people
30 Inert gas
31 "To Live and Die —"
35 Mozart's middle name
38 Gung-ho
40 Govt. lender for some start-ups
42 Online chats, briefly
45 Lean-to
47 "Doing my best"
48 Actress Elisabeth
49 Desires
50 "Terrif!"
51 Carte lead-in
52 "— a deal!"
53 Botanist Gray
54 Jay follower

Solution time: 23 mins.

I	U	G	O	■	C	A	P	E	■	G	M	S
C	M	E	N	■	A	D	E	N	■	O	O	O
W	A	T	E	R	F	O	R	D	■	L	O	L
■	■	■	I	V	E	S	■	L	E	D	G	E
B	A	W	L	S	■	■	M	E	O	W	■	■
O	V	A	L	■	G	L	O	S	S	A	R	Y
N	E	I	■	A	H	I	E	S	■	I	A	E
G	R	E	M	I	I	N	S	■	B	F	T	A
■	■	R	A	S	P	■	■	D	A	R	F	S
P	A	T	I	O	■	B	A	E	Z	■	■	■
A	B	A	■	R	A	I	N	W	A	T	E	R
V	E	X	■	A	L	O	T	■	A	R	L	O
E	L	I	■	N	E	S	S	■	R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 7-19

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trai Byers, 40; Jared Padalecki, 41; Benedict Cumberbatch, 47; Nancy Carell, 57.

Happy Birthday: Work quietly behind the scenes. Don't display anything you do until you are satisfied with the results. Expect others to criticize and judge you if you launch your plans prematurely. A steady pace will pay off by adding stability and security to your life. Make home improvements that encourage better living conditions, and expand your qualifications to meet your goal. Your numbers are 5, 12, 21, 29, 33, 35, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Mix work and play, and you'll shine. Your entertaining personality will encourage others to join in and increase your profile. Speak from the heart; someone you want to know better will listen. Don't make costly or unnecessary changes. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Simplify your life instead of taking on too much. It's better to do one thing meticulously than to spread yourself too thin. Don't let sensitive issues force you in a direction that isn't good for you. Don't waste time on things you cannot change. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let anger get in the way when action is required. Focus on what's important, and don't let what others say or do interfere with your progress. Use your imagination, and you'll find a way to make a difference that supports your lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Travel and educational pursuits will pay off. Communication based on truth, respect and helping others will open doors to new opportunities. Look for unique investments that help you save for a big-ticket item. Pace yourself and improve your credentials, and advancement will be yours. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't expect too much from others. Gauge your time carefully to ensure you can finish what you start. Interference or last-minute changes will mean you have to think fast. Prepare for whatever can go wrong, and keep your costs within your means. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Put your energy and enthusiasm where they count. What you experience and learn will help get you moving in a direction that will eliminate dead weight while building a solid base to house prospects. Set goals and march forward. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Rethink your plans. Reach out to see who's available to help before you begin. Having a foolproof plan will put your mind at ease and encourage others to join your team. Personal gain, romance and broadening your networking circle are favored. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Observe before you act. Use intuitive guidance to help map out your best option. Dedicate time and effort to ensure success. Choose a positive course of action over revenge. Learn from the past, live in the present and build a better future. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be resourceful and verify information instead of relying on hearsay from someone who tends to embellish data. Put together a self-improvement plan, travel and make upgrades that can lead to valuable connections. A reunion will confirm the information you receive, and romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Eradicate what isn't working for you. Lower your overhead and tidy up loose ends to ease stress. Change begins with you, and choosing to alter how you handle money or deal with shared expenses will get you back on track. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* The wrong people, places and projects will attract you. Don't let spontaneity take over, putting you in a no-win situation. Change your investment plan and rethink how you manage and make your money. Rethink and reset your priorities to suit your needs. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Attend an event that updates you about innovative investments and money management, and you'll find out how to grow your income. Getting a glimpse of the possibilities will encourage you to redirect your energy to something that's popular. Embrace change. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, changeable and aggressive. You are curious and entertaining.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		2					6	9
					7	4		
		6				2		
	5	4		6		8	2	
	6							
2			4		9	5		
	7		3				1	
6	3		5					
			1	7			4	

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday's Answer

9	2	4	1	3	8	7	5	6
7	3	8	5	6	4	1	2	9
6	5	1	9	7	2	4	3	8
3	9	6	8	4	7	5	1	2
4	1	2	3	5	6	9	8	7
5	8	7	2	1	9	3	6	4
2	6	3	4	9	1	8	7	5
8	4	5	7	2	3	6	9	1
1	7	9	6	8	5	2	4	3

Difficulty: ★★ 7/18

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCT SYSTEM **Solution: 7 letters**

N	O	T	A	E	K	C	I	R	E	D	E	R	F	D
O	R	O	U	T	E	T	A	G	I	R	R	I	U	R
I	O	Y	E	P	O	L	E	T	N	A	N	S	R	I
S	O	T	U	N	N	E	L	S	D	T	T	S	E	N
N	L	I	S	O	U	T	H	A	A	T	N	S	W	K
E	F	C	I	(F)	W	P	V	K	O	O	S	N	O	W
T	E	A	E	(L)	R	E	E	C	I	A	G	O	P	A
X	H	T	R	(O)	N	E	N	L	B	N	R	I	I	T
E	U	F	R	(W)	W	I	L	S	I	M	A	T	P	E
N	A	I	A	I	P	I	E	M	V	I	V	C	E	R
O	E	S	A	P	M	T	R	T	S	A	E	E	L	O
B	R	H	I	O	A	A	C	A	N	A	L	S	I	C
W	U	L	N	G	F	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	N	K
A	B	O	U	Q	U	E	T	R	O	P	X	E	E	S
J	U	N	C	T	I	O	N	O	Y	N	A	C	S	Y

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Antelope, Bass, Bouquet, Bureau, Canal, Canyon, Catfish, City, Control, Drinkwater, Dust, Export, Extension, Farming, Floor, Flow, Frederick Eaton, Gates, Gravel, Haiwee, Intake, Irrigate, Jawbone, JB Lippincott, Junction, Millions, Mono, Nevada, North, Owens Valley, Pipelines, Power, Rocks, Route, Sections, Sierra, South, Tunnels

Yesterday's Answer: Message

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Taylor hits grand slam, Dodgers stop Orioles' 8-game win streak

BALTIMORE (AP)— Chris Taylor fouled off four straight pitches. Then Bryan Baker threw him one fastball too many.

Taylor hit a grand slam on an 0-2 pitch in the sixth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied to beat Baltimore 6-4, snapping the Orioles' eight-game winning streak Monday night. Baltimore remained a game behind Tampa Bay atop the AL East.

"He threw me a bunch in a row and I was able to get to that one," Taylor said. "You can't cheat to it, because he's got slider and changeup as well. So you really are just trying to touch it. I think I was just able to kind of make the adjustment as he kept throwing them."

Los Angeles trailed 4-1 entering the sixth before Will Smith's RBI single. Baltimore starter Grayson Rodriguez left with men on first and second and nobody out, and for a moment it looked like Baker (3-3) might escape the jam when he induced two straight flyouts.

But after getting ahead 0-2 on Jason Heyward, Baker issued a walk to load the bases. After two foul balls made the count 0-2 on Taylor, the right-hander threw three fastballs around the plate. Following a couple more fouls, the Los Angeles shortstop hit a drive to center field for his 12th homer of the year.

"It probably could have been in a better spot," Baker said. "Just a little bit too far out over to give him time to get to it."

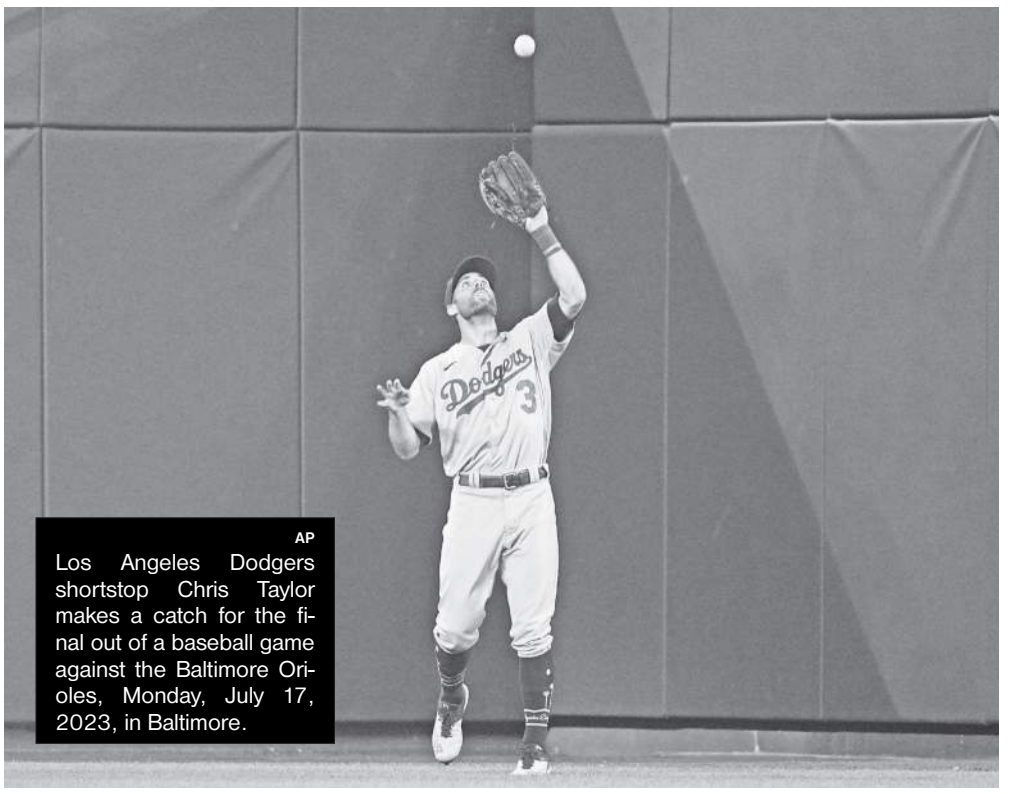
Emmet Sheehan (3-0) allowed four runs in five innings, but the Orioles did not come all that close to scoring on the Los Angeles bullpen. Ryan Brasier worked a hitless ninth for his first save since joining the Dodgers last month. He did allow a walk to Colton Cowser leading off the inning when he was called for a pitch timer violation with the count full.

Freddie Freeman finished a homer shy of the cycle for the NL West-leading Dodgers, and his triple to center— which Aaron Hicks couldn't quite hold onto at the wall— started the big sixth inning.

Adley Rutschman homered for the Orioles.

Ryan Mountcastle opened the scoring for Baltimore with an RBI double in the first. Adam Frazier hit a run-scoring grounder in the second, and Gunnar Henderson followed with an RBI triple to make it 3-0.

After J.D. Martinez's RBI single in the fourth, Rutschman made it 4-1 with a solo homer in the fifth.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Chris Taylor makes a catch for the final out of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Monday, July 17, 2023, in Baltimore.

Taylor now has six grand slams in his career, including two this year. Prior to this season, he hadn't hit one since 2017.

"My first full season with the Dodgers, I feel like four of my first like 10 homers were grand slams," Taylor said. "It just worked out that way."

RANGERS 3, RAYS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)— Aroldis Chapman got his first win since being traded to Texas when pinch-runner Josh Smith scored on a wild pitch in the ninth inning by Tampa Bay's Pete Fairbanks.

Chapman (5-2), acquired from Kansas City last month, twice threw the fastest pitch for the Rangers in the Statcast era (since 2015) with 102.8 mph sinkers while striking out the side in the ninth.

All-Star rookie Josh Jung led off the bottom half with a double and was replaced by Smith, who went to third with two outs on Nathaniel Lowe's groundout. A 1-1 fastball from Fairbanks (0-3) to Mitch Garver went past catcher Christian Bethancourt, and Smith scored easily.

The Rangers won the opener of a series matching AL division leaders, improving to 4-0 since the All-Star break.

Tampa Bay All-Star left-hander Shane McClanahan gave up two runs in six innings, leaving after 69 pitches in his return from back stiffness.

ANGELS 4, YANKEES 3, 10 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Shohei Ohtani tied the score in the seventh inning with his major league-leading 35th home run and pinch-hitter Michael Stefanic delivered a game-ending single in the 10th to lift Los Angeles over New York.

The Angels trailed 3-1 when Ohtani hit a two-run drive off Michael King, then made a demonstrative flip of his bat. Ohtani has homered in three straight games for the third time and surpassed his home run total last year.

Ohtani had three hits and increased his batting average to .306. He struck out in the ninth against Nick Ramirez (0-2), winced and grabbed at his back.

The Yankees have lost seven of nine and dropped into sole possession of last place in the AL East. New York (50-45) is 15-20 since Aaron Judge got hurt on June 3.

Aaron Loup (1-2) struck out two in a hitless 10th for his first win in 1 1/2 seasons with the Angels after seven losses.

Matt Thaiss also homered for the Angels, then was ejected by plate umpire John Tumpane after taking a called third strike in the ninth.

GUARDIANS 11, PIRATES 0

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Josh Naylor homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and Cleveland routed Pittsburgh to end a four-game skid.

Naylor's sixth-inning RBI double extended his hitting streak to eight games. He drove a sinker from Yohan Ramirez over the left-field wall in the seventh, the last of the Guardians' trio of two-run homers.

Michael Kelly (1-0) relieved Xzavion Curry in the fourth and allowed two hits in 1 2/3 innings for his first major league win. The Guardians pitched their ninth shutout.

Quinn Priester (0-1), the fourth-ranked prospect in the Pirates' system, allowed seven runs and seven hits over 5 1/3 innings in his major league debut.

MARINERS 7, TWINS 6

SEATTLE (AP)—Jarred Kelenic's two-run single capped Seattle's big fifth inning against Minnesota All-Star Sonny Gray, and Eugenio Suárez added a two-run homer in the seventh.

The Mariners overcame a shaky first few innings on the mound from Logan Gilbert (8-5) to hand Gray his second straight loss and snap the Twins' three-game win streak coming out of the All-Star break.

Minnesota made it interesting in the ninth when Max Kepler hit a three-run homer with two outs off reliever Ty Adcock to pull within 7-6. Paul Sewald entered and struck out Ryan Jeffers for his 19th save.

Seattle sent nine batters to the plate in the fifth against Gray (4-4), who allowed five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

RED SOX 7, ATHLETICS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Connor Wong hit a two-run double and singled in a run for a career-high three RBIs and Boston beat Oakland for its eighth win in nine games.

Nick Pivetta (6-5) matched his career high with 13 strikeouts over six innings of one-hit relief after replacing lefty opener Brennan Bernardino, who worked two innings. It was Pivetta's ninth career double-digit strikeout game and first of 2023.

The A's lost their eighth straight game and dropped a season-high 46 games under .500 at 25-71. Oakland right-hander Paul Blackburn (1-2) allowed a season-high six runs in 5 2/3 innings.

CARDINALS 6, MARLINS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Arenado drove in four runs, Miles Mikolas threw six solid innings on two days' rest, and St. Louis extended Miami's skid to four games.

Mikolas (6-5) gave up three runs on seven hits in six innings. He threw three perfect innings Friday night against Washington in a game that was halted by rain.

Pinch-hitter Nolan Gorman doubled with two outs in the sixth against reliever Dylan Floro (3-5). Dylan Carlson broke a 3-3 tie with an RBI single, and Arenado followed with a two-run double.

Jordan Hicks allowed three hits in the ninth but escaped for his eighth save.

NATIONALS 7, CUBS 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Keibert Ruiz went 3 for 3 with a two-run homer and a double as Washington beat Chicago.

Jeimer Candelario also launched a two-run drive in his return to the Nationals' lineup.

Ian Happ and Patrick Wisdom each had a two-run homer for the Cubs, who have lost three of four.

MacKenzie Gore (5-7) allowed five runs in 6 1/3 innings to win for only the second time since April. Kyle Finnegan got four outs for his 12th save and first since May 27.

Drew Smyly (7-7) dropped his third straight decision, permitting five runs in six innings.

TIGERS 3, ROYALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)— Matt Vierling capped a three-run eighth inning with a two-run double, and Detroit sent Kansas City to its ninth loss in 11 games.

Taylor Clarke (1-4) gave up Akil Baddoo's leadoff double, hit Riley Greene with a pitch with two outs and walked Spencer Torkelson.

José Cuas relieved and walked Kerry Carpenter on four pitches, forcing in a run and ending Detroit's 20-inning scoreless streak. Vierling sliced a sinker to the opposite field in right.

Brendan White (2-2) got the win in relief. Alex Lange struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 15th save in 18 chances.

GIANTS 2, REDS 2, SUSPENDED, 8 INNINGS

CINCINNATI (AP)—Rain forced the suspension of the game between San Francisco and Cincinnati with one out in the top of the eighth inning after a 1-hour, 55-minute delay.

The Giants had runners on second and third when the game was paused. It was scheduled to resume at 5:40 p.m. on Tuesday ahead of the regularly scheduled 7:10 pm. game.

Austin Slater and Wilmer Flores homered off Reds starter Brandon Williamson, who worked six innings.

The Giants' Logan Webb gave up solo homers to Matt McLain and Jonathan India in his seven innings.

Hall of Famer Johnny Bench apologizes for antisemitic remark

CINCINNATI (AP)—Hall of Famer Johnny Bench apologized for an antisemitic comment made at an event to honor former Cincinnati Reds general manager Gabe Paul, who was Jewish, and others.

Bench made the remark at an event attended by Paul's daughter, Jennie Paul, on Saturday. Paul, who died in 1998, and former Reds pitchers Danny Graves and Bronson Arroyo were being inducted into the team's Hall of Fame.

Pete Rose recalled signing a deal worth "400 bucks a month" in his first contract negotiation with Gabe Paul.

Jennie Paul joked that it was "cheap."

"He was Jewish," Bench responded, drawing laughs from the audience.

"I recognize my comment was insensitive. I apologized to Jennie for taking away from her father the full attention he deserves," Bench said in a statement released Sunday. "Gabe Paul earned his place in the Reds Hall of Fame, same as the others who stood on that stage, I am sorry that some of the focus is on my inappropriate remark instead of solely on Gabe's achievement."

Jennie Paul told reporters she didn't hear Bench's comment. "Johnny came up and said, 'Were you offended?' and I said, 'For what?'" she said. "I didn't even hear him say that. I suppose if I would've heard him say that, I would've said something, but I didn't even hear him say that."

Gabe Paul was the Reds' GM from 1951 to 1960 and was responsible for the franchise's acquisition of players that included Rose and Hall of Famers Frank Robinson and Tony Perez. Under his leadership, Cincinnati began to sign Black and Latin American players, with Nino Escalera and Chuck Harmon making their debuts with the team in 1954.

Bench was a two-time NL MVP, the 1976 World Series MVP, the 1968 NL Rookie of the Year, a 14-time All-Star and a 10-time Gold Glove winner for the Cincinnati Reds while playing from 1967-83.

Source: Titans landing 3-time All-Pro receiver Hopkins

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Tennessee Titans hope they've filled their major need at wide receiver with three-time All-Pro wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins, agreeing to terms on a two-year deal worth $26 million with incentives that could push that to $32 million, a person familiar with the agreement said Sunday.

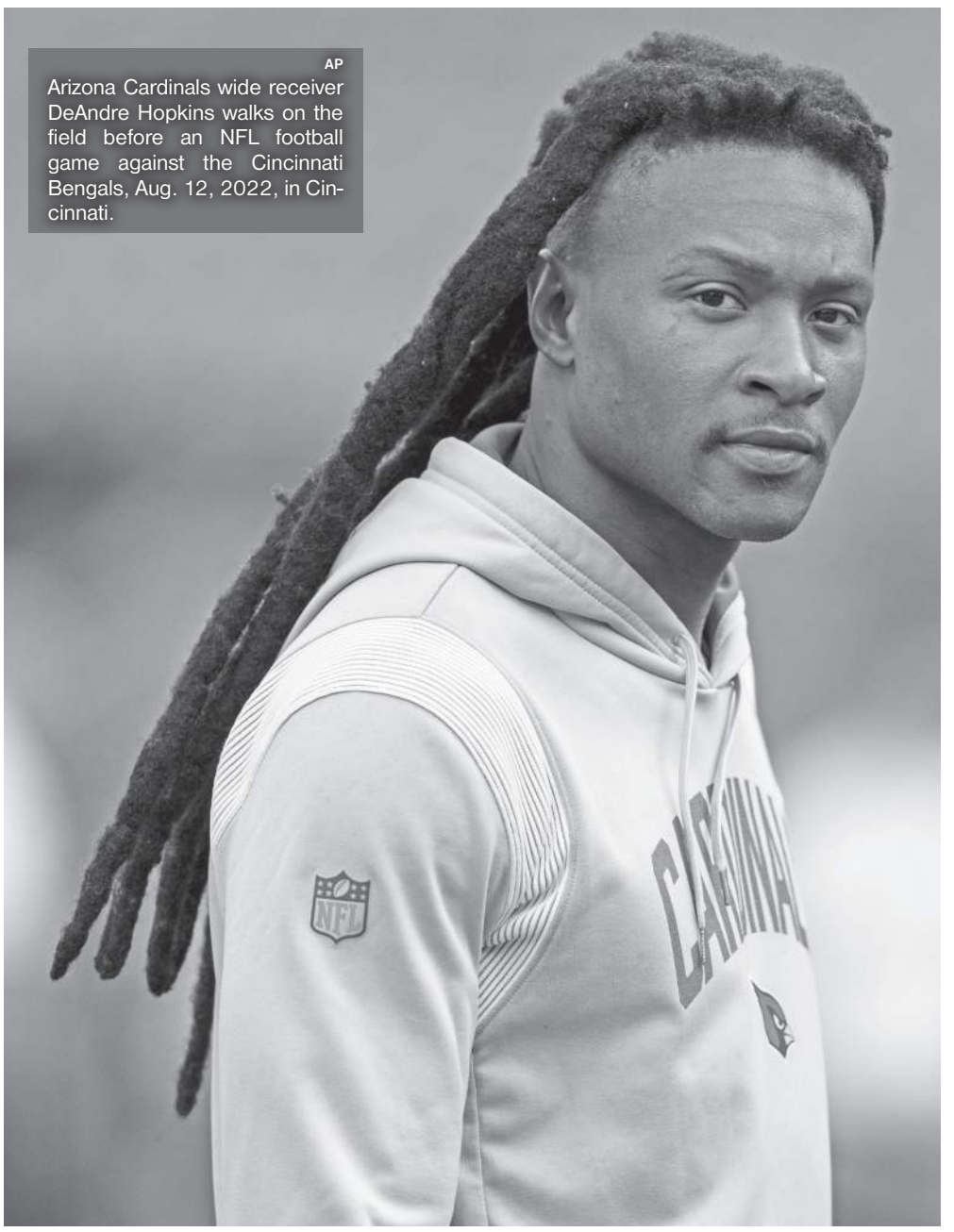
The Titans had the advantage of being the first NFL team Hopkins visited after being released by Arizona in May. Hopkins arrived in Nashville in June and documented on social media his visit to CMA Fest's final night at Nissan Stadium, where the Titans play. Hopkins also visited the New England Patriots later that week.

The deal was first reported by AtoZSports. The person confirmed the agreement to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Hopkins has not signed the contract.

Hopkins, who turned 31 on June 6, would bring much-needed experience to Tennessee's young wide receiving group. Head coach Mike Vrabel had more career touchdown catches with 12 in his own NFL career as a linebacker than anyone currently on the Titans' roster.

The three-time All-Pro would have led Tennessee last season with his 64 catches for 717 yards for Arizona despite a six-game suspension after testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs. He also missed the final two games with a knee injury.

Arizona released the five-time Pro Bowl receiver in a salary cap move May 26 after failing to find a trade partner in the offseason.



AP

Arizona Cardinals wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins walks on the field before an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Aug. 12, 2022, in Cincinnati.

The Cardinals cut Hopkins three seasons after acquiring him in a blockbuster trade with Houston in 2020, and they had signed him to a $54.5 million extension through 2024. Hopkins would have counted close to $31 million against the cap for Arizona, which still took on a dead cap hit of $22.6 million.

Hopkins ranks 36th in NFL history with 11,298 yards receiving in his 10 seasons over 145 games. He immediately became a popular free agent, with his former Houston quarterback Deshaun Watson making a pitch for the receiver to join him in Cleveland.

Both Vrabel and new offensive coordinator Tim Kelly worked in Houston during Hopkins' tenure with the Texans. Vrabel was busy Sunday playing in the American Century Championship celebrity golf tournament in Nevada with Pat McAfee.

"I did know the news. I'm the head coach. I actually knew the news yesterday ...," Vrabel told McAfee. "The whole nine I didn't want to give it to you. ... Looks like it happened."

Hopkins shared a photo of him with Titans running back Derrick Henry on social media on Sunday. Hopkins followed up later Sunday night on social media defending his choice of Tennessee as a free agent.

"I always loved having haters and doubters but I appreciate it even more now. Titan up!!" Hopkins wrote.

He would join a receivers' room currently led by Treylon Burks, the 18th pick overall in the 2022 draft. Burks was the player taken with the selection acquired when Tennessee traded A.J. Brown to Philadelphia. The general manager that made that move was fired Dec. 6.

New general manager Ran Carthon used one draft pick in April on a receiver, taking Colton Dowell in the seventh round. He also signed veteran Chris Moore, whose 548 yards receiving would have led the Titans last season. Their returning receivers combined for 69 catches for 962 yards and four touchdowns.

The Titans also have veteran quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who turns 35 in July, and three-time Pro Bowl running back Henry — both going into the final seasons on their current contracts.

The last time Tennessee added a 31-year-old wide receiver with 10 years of NFL experience didn't work out so well. It traded for Julio Jones in June 2021 and cut him after one season. A hamstring issue limited Jones to the worst season of his career, with 31 catches for 434 yards and one touchdown.

Rodgers' training camp debut with Jets getting a 'Hard Knocks' close-up

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The New York Jets made it official Monday: Their first training camp with new quarterback Aaron Rodgers is getting the "Hard Knocks" treatment.

The team announced its featured role in the long-running HBO and NFL Films show, which offers a behind-the-scenes look at preseason work for an NFL team. The premiere for the 18th edition of the show is Aug. 8.

Rodgers' arrival in New York after 18 stellar seasons with Green Bay certainly made the Jets an appealing subject for the show.

Coach Robert Saleh said last month that the Jets weren't interested in being the show's subject, but Rodgers made it clear last week during the American Century Championship golf event in Lake Tahoe that they'd have to do it anyway.

"There's a lot of eyes on me, a lot of eyes on our team, a lot of expectations for our squad, so they forced it down our throats and we've got to deal with it," Rodgers said.

This is the Jets' second appearance on "Hard Knocks" and first since Rex Ryan's team did it in 2010, which also marks the most recent time the Jets made the postseason in the longest-active skid in the league.

Djokovic rues missed chances after losing highly entertaining final

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Regrets? Novak Djokovic has two.

There was that tiebreaker pretty early in the Wimbledon final on Sunday, when the 36-year-old Serb was one point from taking a two-sets-to-none lead over his 20-year-old opponent, Carlos Alcaraz.

And then there was that missed volley on break point early in the fifth set with all the momentum at that stage going the seven-time Wimbledon champion's way.

"Some regrets," Djokovic said after losing 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 in a high-energy and highly entertaining championship match on Centre Court. "I had my chances. I think I could have closed out that second-set tiebreaker better. But credit to him for fighting and showing some incredible defensive skills, passing shots that got him the break in the fifth.

"He was a deserved winner today, no doubt."

Djokovic has been a deserved winner on so many occasions in the past. Seven times right here at the All England Club, where he was one victory from matching Roger Federer with a men's record eight titles at the grass-court Grand Slam. And 23 times overall at major championships, tied with Serena Williams for the most in the Open era, which began in 1968.

Back in 2019, for instance, Federer was going for his ninth Wimbledon title while Djokovic was the defending champion. Federer had two match points in the fifth set, but Djokovic saved them both, forced a tiebreaker at 12-12 and then ran away to claim his fifth championship.

"I've won some epic finals that I was very close to losing," said Djokovic, who had earlier mentioned those match points in his on-court interview during the trophy ceremony. "Maybe this is kind of a fair-and-square deal, I guess, to lose a match like this for me here."

After breezing through the first set on a windy day, the pair traded breaks of serve early in the second ahead of the eventual tiebreaker.

Djokovic took a 3-0 lead, and having won his last 15 tiebreakers in Grand Slam play, it was looking good for the four-time defending champion. But Alcaraz won three straight points, including a 109 mph ace, to get back even. Then, with a set point and Alcaraz serving at 6-5, Djokovic put a backhand into the net. And then another.

"The backhands kind of let me down, to be honest," Djokovic said. "Set point, I missed the backhand. He did play a backhand that was quite long in the court, had a little bit of a bad bounce. But I should not have missed that shot.

"Then on 6-all, again, another backhand from middle of the court in the net. Just two very poor backhands. That's it. The match shifted to his side. It turned around."

Djokovic hasn't missed too many of those shots over the years. In fact, his last loss at Wimbledon was way back in 2017 when he retired in the second set from his quarterfinal match with an injury. His last loss on Centre Court was in the 2013 final against Andy Murray.

"Beating Novak at his best, in this stage, making history," Alcaraz said, "being the guy to beat him after 10 years unbeaten on that court, is amazing for me."

That other point Djokovic mentioned? The other regret? That miss was even more surprising—especially coming from a guy who has made a career of making shot after shot and waiting for his opponents to mess up.

Alcaraz was serving in the second game of the final set and Djokovic had what looked to be an easy volley to break for a 2-0 lead — the kind of lead he doesn't often relinquish. But his forehand went into the top of the net instead of over it, allowing Alcaraz to recover. In the very next game, the Spaniard broke, giving him the edge he needed to win his second major title after last year's U.S. Open championship.

"I managed to regroup and regain the momentum midway in the fourth (set)," Djokovic said. "I felt that the momentum shifted to my side. That was my chance. That was my opportunity. That break point, I think I played a really good point, kind of set up that drive volley.

"It was very, very windy today. The wind kind of, yeah, took it to an awkward place where I couldn't hit the smash, I had to hit the drive volley kind of falling back. I saw him perfectly running to the opposite corner. I kind of wanted to wrong-foot him with that drive volley, and I missed."

Mobley leads Cavs to win over Rockets for Summer League title

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Isaiah Mobley had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and the Cleveland Cavaliers captured the NBA Summer League championship with a 99-78 victory Monday over the Houston Rockets.

This was the Cavaliers' first title since the Summer League went to a tournament format in 2013. Mobley was voted game MVP, more than making up for not being selected to the all-tournament team.

"I try to not worry about stuff I can't control," Mobley said. "Do I agree with it? No, but it is what it is. I'll take the championship all over it all day."

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' Isaiah Mobley, center, celebrates with teammates after defeating the Houston Rockets in a NBA summer league championship basketball game Monday, July 17, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Sam Merrill scored 27 points, making 6 of 12 3-pointers, and Emoni Bates added 19 points for the Cavaliers (6-0).

Nate Hinton led Houston (5-1) with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Three other Rockets also scored in double figures: Cam Whitmore (14), Trevor Hudgins (13) and Fletcher Magee (10). Whitmore was chosen tournament MVP.

Mobley, a second-round pick in 2022, finished strong in Summer League. He put the Cavaliers in the title game by scoring 23 points and making the winning shot in overtime to beat the Brooklyn Nets 102-99 on Sunday.

Merrill, who was voted first-team all-tournament, has a history of playing well at the Thomas & Mack Center. His 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds left gave Utah State the 2020 Mountain West tournament championship, one of the last shots in college basketball before the COVID-19 shutdown.

"It's a great arena," Merrill said. "I've played it in more than any other, other than (Utah State's). It's nice knowing the locker room and feeling comfortable, and obviously we had a lot of success here."

On Monday, the Cavaliers asserted control early by running out to a 17-4 lead. Houston went on a 19-4 run to cut the margin to 41-38 late in the first half.

But then Cleveland scored the first 11 points of the second half to take a 62-44 lead, and the outcome was never seriously in doubt after that.

"I felt like if we banded together, we were going to make a run (in the second half)," Hinton said "They made some tough shots and some great shots, so shout out to those guys for making those shots."

In addition to Whitmore and Merrill, the all-tournament first team was made up of Keyonte George of the Utah Jazz, Orlando Robinson of the Miami Heat and Hunter Tyson of the Denver Nuggets.

The second team was Bates, Max Christie of the Los Angeles Lakers, Javon Freeman-Liberty of the Chicago Bulls, Xavier Moon of the Los Angeles Clippers, Jabari Smith Jr. of the Rockets and Jalen Wilson of the Nets.

LA HUNN

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Wessel, meanwhile, took third place in boys 14 after outlasting Tahiti's Toanui Lee Tham, 7-5, 2-6, 10-8.

Wessel said winning second runner-up sure was a good consolation after losing to Seo in the semifinals last Monday.

"I feel good winning as it comes with more opportunities than fourth place," he said.

There was a bit of a controversy in the tiebreaker when both Wessel and Tham didn't agree on the score that precipitated a 20-minute lull.

"The score dispute wasn't supposed to happen if both of us were calling the score the whole time. Unfortunately, we only called it sometimes. I feel bad as I feel I'm not going to be as close to my friend from Tahiti as before but I also feel I am in the right as the umpire made it fair when we had the dispute. I still had to come back after the dispute and win five points in a row," he said.

Race said Tham was on the verge of winning the match up 7-5 when Lam's teammate in the 2023 ITF World Teams Competition Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Events inexplicably made five straight unforced errors, which allowed Wessel to claw his way back and eventually win the super tiebreaker and the match.

Later in the afternoon, Lam and Wessel would conspire to win their rain-delayed semis match in the boys doubles 14 against Tahiti's Nicholas Montaigut and Matehau Sacault, 6-4, 6-2.

It thus will be an all-CNMI affair in the finals of the boys 14 doubles. This, after Ryan Choi and Siwoo Lee caught a break when No. 2 seeds Seo and Federated States of Micronesia's Dontrick Daniel withdrew from the match.

Seo obviously was still feeling the back pain he sustained in his earlier match against Lam, allowing Choi and Lee a walkover win to the finals.

In the quarterfinals of the boys 16 doubles, Henry Seungwoo Choi and June Yu pulled off an epic come-from-behind victory over Fiji's Ao Li and Devaansh Singh, 4-6, 6-2, 10-6.

In the girls 16 quarterfinals, Irin Chung and Hoo Wang hacked out a 6-3, 6-2 win over Guam's Leila Mercado and Amelie Terlaje.

In the girls 14, Anne Lee finished seventh after beating Vanuatu's Ashanti Ligo, 6-3, 6-4.

In the girls positional rankings for fifth to eighth place, Anne Lee and Lina Tsukagoshi topped Fiji's Alexandria Chand and Palau's Clara Ueki, 6-1, 6-1.

Simon Tang and his doubles partner Luke Pierre of Cook Islands finished seventh in the boys 16 doubles following their walkover win against Vanuatu's Fintan Molbaleh and Alessandro Traverso.

Prior to Choi and Yu's semifinals match in the boys 16 and Ching and Wang's in the girls 16 played late yesterday, CNMI netters have been perfect on the penultimate day of the POJC.

That led Race to quip "actually we are so far undefeated today. The first day or two was like our worst results ever and today we had our first day [so far] ever without a loss. It's feast or famine, I guess."

BANG

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang in action in the trails of the 5th Three Mountain Climbathon last weekend near Seoul, South Korea.

For the record, Ansan is 960 feet, Inwangsan is 1,109 feet, and Bukaksan is the highest at 2,744.

For all her troubles, Bang finished 103rd overall and vowed that once she comes home to Saipan she will brush up on her uphill climbing skills by frequenting Suicide Cliff or Mt. Tapochao more.

"This was an incomparable course. While I was running this course, I thought I would never join this race again. But after the race, I felt the great joy of accomplishment."

Bang said the hardest part of the 5th Three Mountain Climbathon was the uphill stairway that had a grand total of 2,500 steep stairs.

"It almost killed all participants," she said, while adding the the best part of the race was the moment she finally arrived at the finish line.

"It was not sunny because it's the rainy season in Korea, but super humid and foggy without a hint of a breeze. I sweat more than usual," she added.

Bang said nothing compares to the 5th Three Mountain Climbathon and everything on Saipan just pales in comparison.

"Compared with this course, Mt. Tapochao is just a little and kind hill. But I prefer Mt. Tapochau and I'll run and train at Mt. Tapochao as always."

For the record, Mt. Tapochao, the highest point on Saipan, rises to 1,555 feet.

Bang also wants Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. and the rest of the officers of the club to add more mountain trek runs to the nonprofit's calendar of events.

"I always want a new and stronger challenge!" she said.

She then dedicated her latest running conquest to her fellow Run Saipan members who she missed a lot.

"Of course I want to share this accomplishment with my friends and members of Run Saipan."

ABOUT

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ing together to provide a program that really does give opportunities for all throughout the CNMI—and what we're doing here is really highlighting inclusive leisure activities that any family, any function, any school can do to ensure that they truly are inclusive activities and that everybody in our community can come together and enjoy sport together."

He added, "It's been a long time coming… We're really happy to have it back up again and have it as an annual event. We want to have this possibly every quarter or twice a year because it's that important and everybody that participated loves the event."

Greg Borja, executive director of Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., said on the importance of having the event, "I feel the importance of holding a disabilities sports fest is to provide opportunities for people who don't get a chance to come out and do any activities. That way, they can celebrate with their peers in terms of playing games, laughing, and just having a good time is what it's really all about."

Borja said that participants from the Center for Living Independently shared that they're thankful that the sports fest came back again and that they were happy because they've missed it. "It is an opportunity that they don't really get throughout the year other than when we try to provide these events for them," said Borja.

According to Borja, after the 2020 census, there are roughly about 3,500 people on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with disabilities.

The Disability Network Partners are the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, CNMI PSS, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy System Inc., Division of Youth Services, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Transit Authority, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Center for Living Independently, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The sports festival was first held in 2018 and returned for the first time after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The sports festival will be held on Tinian this Friday, July 21, while the event on Rota will be held on July 28.

Taylor hits grand slam, Dodgers stop Orioles' 8-game win streak.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mobley leads Cavs to win over Rockets for Summer League title.

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La Hunn is boys 14 singles champion

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's La Hunn Lam is the region's top boys 14 player after topping the division in the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji.

The 13-year-old finished off No. 1 seed Junhyuk Seo of Guam, 6-1, 4-1 (retired), in the finals to continue his dominance of his age group as he didn't drop a single set in Fiji.

The second-seeded Lam said he felt awesome after the win against the favored Seo. It was made more special since he injured his ankle in the semifinals two days prior.

"My ankle felt much better than the other day. I was trying my best to be focused fully in every point and reset my mind and it worked well. I am so grateful and happy to be here and win my first POJC championship!" he said.

Lam said his boys 14 singles championship wouldn't have been possible without the help and support he received from Team NMI.

"I am dedicating the championships to my parents, coach Jeff [Race], Colin [Ramsey], and my NMI friends who have been supporting me very much," he said.

Race, for his part, couldn't say enough about Lam's maturity on the tennis court.

"He played great in the first set. He did everything he was supposed to do. He came out strong and kept the pressure on. He served exceptionally well. Played the ball deep and hit a lot of winners off the forehand whenever he had the opportunity. A few terrific defensive plays at important moments. Only two double faults I can recall," he said.

After topping the boys 14 singles in the POJC, Race said he is now looking to arrange for Lam to stay in Fiji for two ITF J30 events coming in the next two weeks.

As for forcing Seo to retire in the finals, Race said it just shows how physically in tip-top shape Lam was in the championship match.

"I think that La Hunn worked him so hard that he hurt his back. Definitely wasn't hurting when he played Nason [Wessel] in the semifinals," he said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's La Hunn Lam in action against No. 1 seed Junhyuk Seo of Guam in the boys 14 player division finalsof the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji.

About 100 join 3rd CNMI Disability Sports Festival

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants play cornhole during the 2023 CNMI Disability Sports Festival on Saipan, which was held last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

About 100 community members took part in the 2023 CNMI Disability Sports Festival on Saipan, which was held last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The participants played a variety of physical activities such as cornhole, boccia, washer toss, sitting volleyball, and disc golf from 9am to 11:30pm.

It was led by co-chairs Center for Living Independently executive director Susan Satur and Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross.

The sports fest's purpose was to provide recreational play opportunities and socialization for people with disabilities within the community—from the elementary school students to the elderly.

Gross, for his part, said after the festivities that "It's a lot of different people com-

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Bang scales 3 mountains in Korea

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ann Bang smiles after completing the 5th Three Mountain Climbathon last weekend near Seoul, South Korea.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan mainstay Ann Bang followed Mother Abbess' advice in the musical *The Sound of Music* when she "Climbed Every Mountain" or at least those assigned in last weekend's 5th Three Mountain Climbathon in the outskirts of Seoul, South Korea.

The 49-year-old said the three mountains she had to summit en route to completing the arduous 10-kilometer trek in a time of 2:30:24 were Ansan, Inwangsan, and Bukaksan.

"This course was very tough and brutal. The weather was very humid and foggy without a hint of a breeze. Almost 400 participants joined this race, and I tried to enjoy the course by sightseeing the beautiful scenery. This course has special meaning and historical significance that is called the Holy Land of the Korean Marathon," she said.

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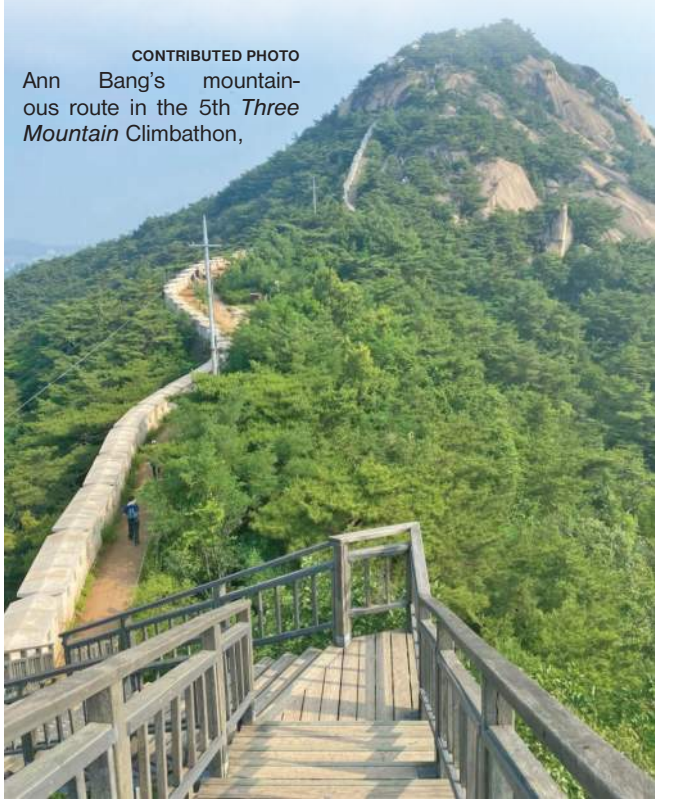

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ann Bang's mountainous route in the 5th *Three Mountain* Climbathon,